

# EL MORRO

Vol. 45 No. 3

Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico [www.buchanan.army.mil](http://www.buchanan.army.mil)

March 2010

## National African American Black History Month 2010 "The History of Black Economic Empowerment"



Col. Edwin C. Domingo, Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander presents a commemorative framed poster to Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Rogers Deputy Director of Operations, Installation Management Command during Fort Buchanan's celebration of African American History Month. (Story and photos on pages 10 and 11).

Photo by Marcos Orengo



973rd Quartermaster  
Co. Award Ceremony

Story on page 9



82nd Airborne Division,  
Infantry Officer from Puerto  
Rico awarded the Bronze  
Star with V Device.

Story on Page 12



Soldiers of the 273rd  
Movement Control Team  
arrive home to a happy  
yet sad ceremony.

Story on page 19





# FROM THE COMMANDER:

The Fort Buchanan Mission —  
Enable customers to succeed by providing sustainable Base  
Support and excellent services.



Col. Edwin C. Domingo  
Garrison Commander

March 2010

## Army Community Covenant

Fort Buchanan's commitment with the Community Covenant grows stronger every day. What started as a promise made in 2007 with the signing of the Army Family Covenant, became our guide and motivation to support of our Soldiers and their families. What sustains the covenant are the strong bonds

exhibited day after day at Fort Buchanan by the Active Duty and Reserve Soldiers, civilian workers and the families that live and visit here.

Our Fort Buchanan family also includes members of the community outside the gate to whom we owe a great debt for their constant support and willingness to assist in any way they can. In Puerto Rico the concept of the extended family is well known.

That is why our extended family includes our sister services, the veterans' organizations and members from the local government and municipal offices as well as other organizations who have the desire to assist our Soldiers and their families.

Working together as a family, we provide the support and services across a broad range of activities. Rodriguez Army Health Clinic provides outstanding medical support to Soldiers and certain retirees. It also assists another vitally important organization — the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit, located on the garrison. These two medical support facilities en-

sure that our Wounded Warriors receive the best medical, social and psychological care available in a timely and professional manner. Our warriors truly receive tender loving care.

Our Army families, active duty and retired, also receive direct assistance through Fort Buchanan. Through the Army Community Services programs such as Army Emergency Relief, financial and family crisis counseling standby to help whenever needed. The Family Readiness Group located in Buchanan Heights provides extremely important services so families can stay in touch with their deployed Soldiers.

The Family Readiness Groups with support from the Fort Buchanan and 1st MSC Religious Support Offices also provides Yellow Ribbon and Family Enrichment programs for those returning Soldiers so they are able to re-integrate with their families.

Our Retiree Services Office reaches out to the retirees and assists them in obtaining benefits they have earned and answering their questions. It also acts as a go be-

tween with inquiries to other offices.

Other members of our extended family are the local and municipal governments. Throughout the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Covenant is supported with a vigorous set of Soldier and veteran offices providing services that range from official Welcome Home Ceremonies by the Legislature to the "Procurador del Veterano", (the Advocate for Veterans Affairs Services), the government of Puerto Rico is always first to step forward to ask — what can we do to make help the Soldiers and their families.

This was demonstrated by Senator Luce Arce's initiative for a Veterans Congress held November 7, 2009 and by the signing of Law 8 by Governor Fortuño on 20 January 2010 known as the "Professional Combatant Law". The law was created to the effect that "no licensed professional in Puerto Rico subject to mandatory professional association membership would be affected in his/her rights and privileges as member of such association for being part of the U.S.

Armed Forces, being a civilian employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, being an employee of the National Medical Services against Disasters, or member of the National Guard and being deployed to serve."

The Army's Community Covenant at Fort Buchanan truly represents the broad coalition of government, military and individual efforts demonstrating that the Army Community Covenant does work even better than expected. In the future, we all will continue to examine and improve our services and support approaches to take care of our most important assets — our Soldiers and their families who continue to proudly serve our Nation.



**ARMY FAMILY COVENANT:**  
KEEPING THE PROMISE  
**ARMYOneSource.com**



**I.A.M. STRONG**  
INTENSE ACT WORKING  
Special Assistance/Accident Response & Prevention  
www.gtrwmtbucananaul.armymil



**Commanding Officer**  
Col. Edwin C. Domingo

**Deputy Commander**  
Lt. Col. Gerald Savage

**Command Sergeant Major**  
CSM David Davis

**Dep. to Garrison Cdr.**  
Gunnar Pedersen

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Grissel Rosa

**PAO Assistant**  
Jackie Ferrer

**Media Relations**  
Pedro Silva

**1st MSC PAO**  
Sgt. 1st Class Alfonso Flores

El Morro is an authorized publication printed in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Contents of El Morro are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Army or U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan.

El Morro is published April 2009 monthly by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Garrison. Circulation 5,000. All editorial content of El Morro is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the U.S. Army Garrison Public Affairs Office.

Deadline for submission is 4 p.m. Friday, one week prior to publication. Submissions must be in electronic (MS-Word) and hard copy formats and include all text, photographs and graphics intended to accompany the submission.

The Editor reserves right to edit all submissions and to determine the suitability for inclusion in El

Morro. Every effort will be made to publish submissions in a timely manner, however, time, layout, style and editorial considerations, as well as determinations made by the Commander or the Public Affairs Officer to determine if the submission is published.

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
Public Affairs Office  
390 Crane Loop, Ste. 311  
Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico 00934-4616

**STORY SUBMISSIONS —**  
Email to: Grissel.rosa@us.army.mil

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS**  
(787) 707-5776/4486/ FAX: (787) 707-3362.

**1st MSC STORY SUBMISSIONS —**  
Email to: alfonso.flores@us.army.mil

**1st MSC TELEPHONE NUMBERS**  
(787) 567-0246.







# Army Community Covenant – What Gratitude Looks Like

By: Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch  
Commander, Installation Management Command



As our Nation commits to preserving freedom through the uncertainty of deployments and conflicts across the world, Americans give us a special gift -- embracing Soldiers and their families with sincere support. It warms my heart to see adults, children, organizations and businesses that represent all walks of life sending care packages to deployed Soldiers and extending special invitations when they return.

In a larger way, the Army Community Covenant (ACC) generates a great deal of community support for Army Families while their Soldiers are away.

The Secretary of the Army created the ACC in 2008 to build mutual relationships and strengthen bonds between Soldiers, Families and American communities. It fosters and sustains effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families. On the ground, the ACC accomplishes two things. First, it recognizes the selfless service of community volunteers, highlighting their great personal contributions. It also shows Soldiers the compassion and support of the American public.

Now in its third year, the ACC kicked off with a series of signing ceremonies affirming the mutual support and trust between the military and local communities. To date there have been more than 450 signing ceremonies.

While the signing ceremonies are the public, outward display of a vital mutual relationship -- support from communities helps build resilience in our Families -- the Army Community Covenant is a highly beneficial two-way partnership that strengthens ties between our Soldiers and home town America.

The generosity of America's neighborhoods, towns, cities, and counties is astounding. Every day communities devise new ways, both small and large, to demonstrate their appreciation for Soldiers and Families. Adults, children, organizations, and businesses send care packages to deployed Soldiers, offer emergency relief to Families in need, welcome Soldiers home after deployment, and most importantly provide a support network to complement and enhance Soldier well being. From students baking cookies for deployed units, to elected leaders promoting legislation that builds equity in school transition for children of Military Families, each is a gift.

Volunteers from all walks of life devote countless hours to giving back to those who defend our Nation's freedom. Here are a few Community Covenant initiatives to give you an idea of the scope of support that target financial, employment, health, youth programs, training, or other needs unique to a particular garrison or group of Soldiers or Family members:

- Camps focus on fun learning experiences for young people that last a lifetime. Some camp sponsors are private organizations like the 4-H Clubs, Girl Scouts, Operation Military Kids; state National Guards sponsor others. Kids form new, lasting friendships with children from a variety of military backgrounds.

- Educator seminars help teachers learn what makes life different for children with parents serving in the military. From frequent moves to deployment and redeployment, military children have a special set of experiences that moves with them, school to school, and that affect their education experience.

- All volunteer Adopt-A-Unit programs support deployed units in-theatre and celebrate returning units with event invitations. These programs also enthusiastically remember those currently deployed through the Yellow Ribbon program, encouraging community members to display yellow ribbons at their homes and offices.

- Financial support programs from states, counties and

private organizations take many forms, whether help with property taxes, assistance for Soldiers of all components who deploy in support of the Overseas Contingency Operations, or grants or no-interest loans for emergencies for Reserve Component Soldiers.

- Programs abound to help Families focus on building quality time together. Reduced or free admission to state parks, amusement attractions, and sports events help Soldiers and Families enjoy memorable time together. Retreats for families of fallen Soldiers build strong networks of friendship for those members of the Army Family who have experienced the ultimate loss.

- There are community-based organizations that solicit donations exclusively to fund a variety of programs with 100 percent of all donations going to the designated programs. In-kind donations from community members and businesses entirely fund administration expenses.

- Education support for Soldiers and Family members through scholarships, continuing education opportunities, or grants helps further both individual and Army readiness through access to education.

- Special programs honor the children of wounded warriors, and Families and children of fallen heroes with personalized, commemorative items like hand-made quilts.

These best practices embody selfless service on the part of Americans around the country, but there are many more. I mention them here as great examples of how citizens endure in their support with lasting relationships in the face of multiple and lengthy periods of military conflict. The Community Covenant website, <http://www.army.mil/community>, is a great resource for Soldiers, Family members, leaders, and community organizations to see best practices from around the country. Follow the latest developments and get ideas for your community by following the ACC on Facebook, and join in the discussion on Twitter, both linked via the ACC homepage.

As the Army reflects the face of America, the Army Community Covenant reflects the face of America's gratitude. It's all about relationships. Go out of your way to thank a Community Covenant partner for their active caring for Soldiers and their Families. Work together with community leaders, private organizations, faith-based groups, and individual American citizens.

Help America help Soldiers by always taking to heart what partnering opportunities may be possible.

Army Strong  
Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

## Soldiers to get new cammo pattern for wear in Afghanistan

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- Starting this summer, Soldiers sent to fight in Afghanistan will wear an Army Combat Uniform with the "MultiCam" pattern instead of the standard-issue universal camouflage pattern.

Secretary of the Army John McHugh made that announcement Feb. 19, after the service conducted a rigorous four-month evaluation of various uniform patterns to determine what could best protect Soldiers in Afghanistan.

The new uniforms are of the same material and cut that Soldiers are already wearing in the Army Combat Uniform or ACU. It is the camouflage printed on the fabric that will be different. The change allows commanders in Afghanistan to have more options in deciding how best to equip their Soldiers.

"As a material provider, I want to be responsive to the Soldiers I support," said Col. William E. Cole, project manager for Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment. "I want to give commanders options, I want to

be responsive to Soldiers. That is what we were trying to do -- we're working to give (them) more options." The uniforms bearing the new pattern, like the latest ACUs, are fire resistant. They are officially called the Fire Resistant Army Combat Uniform.

The decision to use the MultiCam pattern came after the Army evaluated its effectiveness at providing camouflage protection in Iraq. That was done, in part, by consulting with nearly 750 Soldiers who had deployed to Afghanistan. Those Soldiers participated in a "photo simulation" study administered by the Army.

Additionally, feedback from Soldiers who have already worn the uniform in Afghanistan was used to make the final decision. About 2,000 Soldiers were involved in tests to see how effective patterns such as MultiCam and UCP-Delta were at providing concealment in the varying terrain of Afghanistan.



Spc. Jesus B. Fernandez crosses a stream during a unit visit to Angla Kala village in Afghanistan's Kunar province, Feb. 6, 2010. International Security Assistance Force troops regularly meet with village elders to improve communications between residents and government officials. Fernandez is an assistant team leader assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment.

Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte





## Army Emergency Relief campaign begins March 1

By J.D. Leipold  
Army News Services

WASHINGTON -- The annual Army Emergency Relief campaign kicks off March 1 and will run through May 15.

During the campaign this year, AER officials want to promote awareness to Soldiers and their families that donations generate interest-free loans to fellow Soldiers and families in times of need.

Founded in 1942, the AER has provided more than \$1.2 billion in assistance, and in the last five years alone has distributed nearly \$300 million to more than 280,000 Soldiers and families for unforeseen cash flow problems, said Andrew H. Cohen, AER deputy director for finance.

"This is about 'Soldiers helping Soldiers' because most of the money was donated by Soldiers to help other Soldiers and their families," Cohen said. "Most assistance is given as a loan and paid back to the fund so Soldiers can continue to help the next Soldier in need."

Generally, AER interest-free loans have been under \$1,000 for terms of between 12 and 24 months but in the case of larger loans, extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

"Not only are extensions possible, but if repaying a loan creates an undue hardship, a Soldier can convert the loan to a grant," Cohen said. "There's no boiler plate solution to take care of a Soldier and his family."

Cohen said the loan process has become easier for requests under \$1,000 due to the command referral program whereby company commanders and first sergeants have the authority to approve a loan. Local installation AER sections can approve cases up to \$3,500. For more than \$3,500 in emergency funds, the local AER will forward the case to AER headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

It's not uncommon for an emergency fund request to be dropped off at the local base AER office in the morning, then return at lunch to pick up their assistance checks. Cohen said it's much quicker and easier than going outside the gate and having to pay a huge interest rate.

In 2009, AER provided \$79 million in assistance to more than 71,000 Soldiers and their families and 90 cents of every donated dollar goes to Soldier and family programs.

The retired Army colonel said the top reason Soldiers borrow emergency funds is for rent or housing. He added Soldiers and their families may show up at a new duty station and be short on deposits for utilities and apartments and that constitutes an emergency.

Essential car repair, such as a transmission replacement or a new set of tires can be funded through the AER as well as emergencies involving temporary problems with pay, medical insurance issues and last-minute travel to be with a sick or dying family member.

"We don't fund experimental medical or pay fines, tax liens, or buy cars, but all those things we don't do, we have done as an exception to policy," Cohen added. "If it's in the best interest of the Soldier, the family and the Army to make a loan, we'll do it."

For more information on how AER benefits Soldiers and their families and how to contribute, visit the AER at: <http://www.aerhq.org/>.

## Commentary: Fort Jackson ready for CSF role

By Brig. Gen. Bradley W. May  
Fort Jackson Commanding General

FORT JACKSON, S.C. -- In case you haven't been following this story line, it's worth repeating. Fort Jackson is playing a major role in the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program with the opening of the Master Resilience Training school this spring.

Beginning in April, Fort Jackson will offer a 10-day course in master resilience that will equip our leaders with the knowledge so that they can teach coping skills to members of their units.

Resilience -- which in this context refers to the ability to grow and thrive in the face of challenges and bounce back from adversity -- is a key term in defining the vision of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program itself. Master Resilience Training is one of four elements of the CSF program.

The mission of the CSF program is to develop and institute a holistic fitness program in order to enhance and build resilience. The Army believes that an emotionally and physically healthy force will result in a reduction in rates of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, domestic violence, and the list goes on.

I might add that this program is not only for Soldiers, but family members and Army civilians, also. To borrow the words of CSF director Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum, "Being Army Strong is, in fact, being more than just physically fit." She is absolutely on point.

We are arming our Soldiers with the mental tools and capabilities so that they can successfully deal with any challenges that they may face. The CSF program in itself is unique in that it is linked to the Army Career Tracker and the requirement for guided self-development.

A Global Assessment Tool will gauge five elements of Soldier fitness: physical, emotional, social, spiritual and family strength. In turn, assessments will help create the type of individual resilience training that each Soldier requires.

According to the CSF director, resiliency techniques have resulted in measurable improvements in other places where they have been implemented. For example, the Navy has provided 45 minutes of resiliency training a week in its basic training. The results are a higher number of graduates and a fewer number of psychological discharges.

I am a firm believer in the CSF program because it will teach Soldiers, family members and civilians to confront challenges in a positive way so that they will grow from these experiences. Resilience training will assist in analyzing more optimistic and realistic choices, rather than falling into a negative thought process. Having the lead in the Master Resilience Training will help Fort Jackson grow, as well.

The bottom line is that we will probably learn as much as we teach.

Army Strong!



## Broncos emphasize mental health during CSA visit

By Maj. Cathy Wilkinson

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii -- The leaders of the Bronco Brigade met with Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. in a roundtable discussion about Comprehensive Soldier Fitness during his visit here, Feb. 26.

The 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, brigade and battalion commanders and command sergeants major, along with brigade health care officers, the military family life consultant and the director of the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic told Casey about their efforts to provide Soldiers with the best health care available and to break the stigma surrounding mental health care.

"I talk to battalion and brigade commanders about mental health care, and they get it," said Casey, referring to the importance of mental health care. "We've made huge progress. Four or five years ago, we surveyed the Army and 80 percent said there was a stigma. Now only 50 percent say there is one, but that's 500,000 people. So I don't think we've solved the problem yet."

The brigade leadership made a concerted effort to link its leaders and local health care providers together to improve Soldier care when the unit returned from Iraq in October, 2009. Senior brigade leaders meet with health care providers, senior spouses, Army Community Service representatives and social workers in a twice-monthly meeting known as the Pohai Pulama, or Caring Circle, organized by the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic director.

"We take all these people who have different pieces of the puzzle and we sit at the table and put the puzzle together to help Soldiers," said Col. Michael Brumage, the clinic director, describing the meetings. There are multiple agencies where Soldiers can get help, ranging from doctors to Military One Source and ACS.

"I know my Soldiers. I've been with them for two years, as we trained for Iraq and when we deployed," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Stout, the 3rd Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment command sergeant major. "We care about Comprehensive Soldier Fitness. We want to help our Soldiers to grow from their experiences in combat and not develop a disorder."

Stout told Casey that leaders can be left out of the loop when Soldiers need mental health care.

"I know when a Soldier has an injured leg. I know how to help him recover and I can design a [physical training] program to get him well. We need the same kind of visibility to help our Soldiers recover when they need mental health care," said Stout.

The unit leadership needs to be involved, while still respecting medical privacy, to help Soldiers function at their best, he said.

The brigade's focus on taking care of people first stems from leaders' experiences with multiple deployments and changing the attitude about taking care of the whole Soldier concept.

"This is a military operation," said Lt. Col. Jerry Turner, the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment commander. "Soldier Care is a commander's critical information requirement. This is commander's business," he said.

The group agreed that mental health care is vital to Soldier and family well being. As part of the CSF program, Casey urged leaders at the platoon level, including Master Resilience Trainers, to help change the perception of a mental health stigma. "This is where we will solve the problem," he said.

"You can't watch the Olympics without understanding how important the mental dimension is to physical competition," Casey added. "Soldiers continually want to be better and we will help them."





# Army changes structure of Basic Officer Leadership Course

By Jeff Crawley (Fort Sill)



Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, left, Army Training and Doctrine Command commanding general, talks with Soldiers in the Basic Officer Leadership Course Phase II in April at Fort Sill, Okla. TRADOC has replaced BOLC II and III with the new BOLC B, which begins in February and March.

Photo credit Jeff Crawley (Fort Sill)

FORT SILL, Okla. (Feb. 11, 2010) -- The Army is changing the way it trains its newest second lieutenants by merging two basic courses and having officers from the same branches train together from the onset of their careers.

The Basic Officer Leadership Course B, or BOLC B, is about to begin at installations Armywide. Field Artillery BOLC B begins Tuesday, when 150 Soldiers start the new training at Fort Sill.

"I think it's a good thing," said BOLC B officer-in-charge Capt. Mike Ernst, of the 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery, 428th FA Brigade. "It's refocusing what we need to do at the level for junior officers for initial training. It builds that cohesion factor starting with the basics and graduating to higher-level training."

The 18.5-week BOLC B is a consolidation of the seven-week BOLC Phase II and the 15-week BOLC Phase III, said Maj. Celester Thomas, executive officer of the 1-30th FA.

BOLC II covered 55 Soldier skills, such as land navigation, and its officers were from a variety of branches. Some of those tasks could be better learned at other points in the officers' initial training, said Gen. Martin Dempsey, commanding general of the Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va.

Of the 55 functional skills, some if done once, the Soldiers had the skill down pat, Dempsey said. Other tasks required repetitive learning and still other skills atrophied so quickly that even if learned in BOLC II, would have to be relearned at the officer's first assignment. So now those skills are being spread out over the new officers' training, he said.

Upon graduation from BOLC II Soldiers would go their separate ways on to BOLC III, whose curriculum was branch specific, i.e., field artillery, medical, adjutant general, air defense artillery, etc. (BOLC Phase I is the officer's commissioning source, such as officer

candidate school.)

Dempsey said there will be benefits from BOLC B over BOLC II and III.

"It allows us to make better use of resources, and it reduces backlog because we were experiencing some significant (second lieutenant) backlogs," he said.

Ernst provided details on the BOLC B training.

Lieutenants from OCS, ROTC, the U.S. Military Academy, as well as direct commission officers, are first administratively processed into the Army.

"That runs the gamut from getting them into DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System), finance, all the medical and dental so that's primarily the first week of the course," Ernst said. "It's just like a private going into basic training who gets a week of in-processing."

Then for the next two weeks, the neophyte officers learn seven core Soldiers skills: land navigation; small arms marksmanship; small-unit tactics, techniques and procedures; convoy operations; sexual assault prevention; equal opportunity training; and lastly combatives, or hand-to-hand fighting.

They are certified as level 1 in the combatives program, a designation similar to a colored-belt system used in some martial arts, said Ernst, who has taught BOLC II for the past 18 months.

The seven Soldier skills will be used and reinforced throughout the 4.5-month program, Thomas said.

On March 8, BOLC B becomes field-artillery specific and the class will pick up Marine Corps and international officers, swelling the number of students to 168, Thomas said.

In a mix of academics and field exercises, 24 instructors will teach the students virtually everything about field artillery.

This includes fire support and coordination, working with maneuver commanders, tactical communications and leadership and platoon operations that will pre-

pare the lieutenants to become company fire direction officers, fire support officers and platoon leaders.

The students will also be introduced to the 105mm howitzer; 155mm Paladin howitzer, which is a tracked vehicle; and the M-777 155mm howitzer, a towed system, Thomas said.

Instruction is primarily on the 105mm howitzer for Soldiers, Thomas said. "If we can teach you on the 105, everything else can translate to the 155."

Academics are rigorous and the officers study, in addition to fire theory and weapons systems, things such as Earth rotation and weather, which can affect the delivery of artillery, Thomas said.

Students must maintain at least a 70-percent academic average throughout the course, except the safety curriculum, where minimum passing is 80 percent, Thomas said.

In BOLC III, one of the toughest parts of the training was the gunnery test, where students had to put rounds on targets designated by a maneuver commander, Thomas said. They were given three opportunities to pass.

"Ninety-nine percent of our failures come from the gunnery exercise," Thomas said. "It's hard for some lieutenants to figure out the technical side of it." A typical BOLC III class would lose 10 to 15 students, who did not pass the course, he said.

BOLC B will culminate with a five-day capstone exercise consisting of everything the students learned, Thomas said.

"Now they are out in the field, it's 'Hey, lieutenant you have the conn, it's your turn to show what you learned throughout the course,'" Thomas said.

Following completion of BOLC B, the new field artillery officers will get further training in the specific weapons system they will use at their next assignments, such as the Multiple Launch Rocket System. For that they will attend a week and a half of advanced officer's training, Thomas said.

The goal of the FA BOLC B is to produce a competent, confident field artilleryman who can advise a maneuver commander, Thomas said. "Those are our three main outcomes."

Thomas and Ernst said they are excited about BOLC B.

"I'm ready to get started," Thomas said.

## CHILD FIND DAY



## Developmental Screenings

- Do you think your toddler or preschooler is not speaking as he/she should for his/her age?
- Are you concerned that he/she does not play or learn like most children his/her age?
- Can your child crawl, walk, run, and jump like other children his/her same age?

If you are concerned about your child's development, (and your child is entitled to DDSS) and would like more information, bring your infant/toddler/preschooler (0-5 years of age) to the Fort Buchanan Community Club for a developmental screening on:

# 14 APRIL 2010

from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

For more information contact:  
Educational & Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS),  
Department of Defense School System (DDSS) or the  
Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Fort Buchanan, PR  
(787) 707-2185/2167 (EDIS); (787) 707-4631 (DDSS);  
(787) 707-3295 (EFMP)





# Fort Buchanan Short Shorts

## Army Earth Day

By Alicia M. Navedo-Núñez  
DPW Environmental Conservation Manager

The Department of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division invites the Fort Buchanan community to join them in pledging that together we will keep the environment in our mind, in our heart, and at the forefront of everything we do. Collectively, we must make every effort to create a balance between the environment and the military mission in order to benefit today's generation and the generations to come.

The DPW Environmental Division is celebrating its third Army Earth Day Expo on Friday, 30 April 2010 at the Community Club, Building 660 from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m.. This year, Energy and Water Conservation efforts will be presented, as well as other fun and educational activities. REMEMBER: Army Green is Army Strong! We can and will make a difference.



### Falls/Playground Safety Tips:

.. Never use baby walkers on wheels. Use stationary activity centers or walker alternatives.

.. Use safety gates at the top and bottom of stairs if there are infants or toddlers in the home.

.. Move chairs and furniture away from windows. Consider installing window guards that meet new federal standards for emergency egress on windows located on the ground floor and up.

.. Avoid asphalt, concrete, grass and soil surfaces under playground equipment. Acceptable loose-fill materials include shredded rubber, hardwood fiber mulch or chips, and fine sand. Surfacing should be maintained at a depth of 12 inches and should extend a minimum of 6 feet in all directions around stationary equipment. Depending on the height of the equipment, surfacing may need to extend further than 6 feet.

### Bicycle Injury Safety Tips:

.. A bicycle helmet is a necessity, not an accessory. Buy a bicycle helmet that meets or exceeds the safety standards developed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Wear a bicycle helmet correctly.

.. Learn the rules of the road and obey all traffic laws.

.. Cycling should be restricted to sidewalks and paths until a child is age 10 and able to show how well he or she rides and observes the basic rules of the road.

## USAJOBS Website

By Robin Carper  
CHRA, HR Programs Div

On Saturday, January 23, 2010, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) launched a new redesigned USAJOBS website. USAJOBS has updated their website to be more applicant friendly. Focus groups provided input to enhance the look and feel.

One of the changes as a result of OPM's USAJOBS transformation is how applicants applying for Army positions through the USAJOBS website are directed to Army's self-nomination form. Previously, when an applicant reviewed a vacancy announcement on USAJOBS for an Army vacancy and wished to apply on-line, they clicked "Apply on-line" which automatically directed them to the Army self-nomination form. Under the revised procedure, once applicants click on "Apply on-line," they must enter their USAJOBS account username and password before being directed to the Army self-nomination form. If an applicant does not have a USAJOBS account, they can establish one on-line.

## Re-Up Goals Met

WASHINGTON – All four active services and the six reserve components met or exceeded their recruiting goals for the month of January, Defense Department officials said today.

At the same time, the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force retained near or above mission goals through the first four months of fiscal 2010, a Pentagon news release says. Attrition in all reserve components is within acceptable limits.

Here is the recruiting breakdown for January:

**Army:** 8,513 accessions, with a goal of 8,393 for 101 percent;

**Navy:** 3,012 accessions, with a goal of 3,012 for 100 percent;

**Marine Corps:** 3,035 accessions, with a goal of 3,024 for 100 percent;

**Air Force:** 2,593 accessions, with a goal of 2,593 for 100 percent;

**Army National Guard:** 4,402 accessions, with a goal of 4,100 for 107 percent;

**Army Reserve:** 2,272 accessions, with a goal of 2,229 for 102 percent;

**Navy Reserve:** 511 accessions, with a goal of 511 for 100 percent;

**Marine Corps Reserve:** 1,130 accessions, with a goal of 819 for 138 percent;

**Air National Guard:** 563 accessions, with a goal of 470 for 120 percent; and,

**Air Force Reserve:** 772 accessions, with a goal of 772 for 100 percent.

(From a Defense Department news release.)

## Varying Levels of Exchange Support Available to Entire Military Community

By Grace M. Fuentes  
AAFES Media Contact

Puerto Rico – Bring a contractor, family member, Department of Defense (DoD) civilian or other visitor onto Fort Buchanan and the first words out of their mouth typically are, "who can shop the exchange?"

While authorizations governing who can buy merchandise and services at the PX often apply to a chosen few, the doors to AAFES' fast food and convenience stores, including the B.K., Popeye's and Charlie's, are open to virtually anyone looking for a quick bite to eat. In fact, DoD policy allows all federal government employees, and even installation visitors, to dine at AAFES restaurants as long as their orders are consumed on the installation. Furthermore, anyone can purchase single-serve consumables from a Shoppette.

"The 'Snack Avenue' inside most AAFES Shoppettes and Service Stations offers a robust selection of single-serve consumables," said General Manager Rick Mora. "Candy bars, soft drinks, even Hot Coffee can be picked up by just about anyone with business on the installation."

Exchange service authorization begins with the House Armed Services Committee and ultimately ends with the Fort Buchanan commander. The guidelines, as prescribed by Army Regulation 215-8/Air Force Instruction 34-211 (I) and the Armed Services Exchange Regulations, Department of Defense Instruction 1330.21, require proper identification of authorized customers, including uniformed personnel and members of the Reserve Components and family members, applicable DoD civilians, exchange associates, retirees and their dependents who possess a basic exchange purchase privilege authorization card.

Anyone who believes they may qualify for exchange benefits, including access to the main PX, can contact AAFES Administrative office at (787) 783-5494 for additional guidance as well as information regarding possible exceptions at Fort Buchanan.

Retiree Appreciation  
Day on May 28, 2010  
at the Fort Buchanan  
Community Club ---  
Post your calendars

## Global Assessment Tool Helps Soldiers and Families

By Army News Service

As part of its efforts to support Soldiers in all areas of life -- family, social, physical, emotional, and spiritual -- the Army is requesting that all Soldiers complete the Global Assessment Tool (GAT) as part of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program.

Global Assessment Tool provides you with a baseline in four dimensions of strength: emotional, social, spiritual and family; and provides an opportunity to track self-development and growth in these areas over time. Available online at <https://www.sft.army.mil/sftfamily> (AKO log-in required).

### What is it?

The program, based on 30-plus years of scientific study and results, uses individual assessments, tailored virtual training, classroom training and embedded resilience experts to provide the critical skills our Soldiers, Family members and Army Civilians need.

### Why is it important?

CSF marks a new era for the Army by comprehensively equipping and training our Soldiers, Family members and Army Civilians to maximize their potential and face the physical and psychological challenges of sustained operations. We are committed to a true prevention model, aimed at the entire force, which will enhance resilience and coping skills enabling them to grow and thrive in today's Army.



Comprehensive Soldier Fitness  
<http://www.army.mil/csfi>  
Strong Minds, Strong Bodies!

### What is Comprehensive Soldier Fitness?

Comprehensive Soldier Fitness represents the Army's investment in the readiness of the force and the quality of life for our Soldiers, Family members and Civilians by giving the same emphasis to psychological, emotional and mental strength that we have previously given to physical strength. The program takes a holistic approach to fitness by optimizing five dimensions of strength: Physical, Emotional, Social, Spiritual and Family.

## Correction

On the February issue of El Morro we published an article of Ms. Awilda Morales receiving a Commander's Coin from Col. Edwin C. Domingo, but we didn't indicate that Col. Domingo was presenting the coin on behalf of Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, Commanding General, Installation Management Command. We apologize for the omission.





## G-6 launches 'Apps for the Army' contest

By CIO/G-6 Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- The Army announced its first internal applications-development challenge. The program, called "Apps for the Army," or A4A, gives Army personnel the opportunity to demonstrate their software-development skills.

Open to all Soldiers and Army civilians, the challenge's top submissions will be recognized at the LandWarNet Conference in August. Winners will receive monetary awards from a cash pool totaling \$30,000.

Marvin Wages, program manager for A4A, said "making Apps for the Army a challenge with cash awards provides participants additional incentive to create an application. It also creates more interest" in the competition.

The Army's G-6, which is coordinating the A4A challenge, hopes the contest will improve current service capabilities or add new ones - all through the ingenuity of Soldiers and Army employees.

"We're building a culture of collaboration among our Army community to encourage smarter, better and faster technical solutions to meet operational needs," said Army chief information officer and G-6 Lt. Gen. Jeff Sorenson.

"Soldiers and Army civilians will be creating new mobile and Web applications of value for their peers - tools that enhance warfighting effectiveness and business productivity today," Sorenson said. "And, we're rewarding their innovation with recognition and cash."

Participation in A4A is limited to the first 100 Army personnel, to include active-duty Soldiers, Army Reserve and Army National Guard on active duty, and Army civilians who enroll. Only Army personnel can participate. Teamwork is encouraged, but not required, officials said, and participants can submit multiple entries.

A4A applications may tackle any aspect of Army information technology - distributed training, battle command, career management, continuing education, or news and information distribution, for example. A4A will use the latest in collaborative development media, G-6 officials said.

"Apps for the Army features an innovative cloud computing service for participants to use during software creation," Sorenson noted. "This is key because it eliminates the constraints of hardware provisioning prior to prototype evaluation."

The service, provided by the Defense Information Systems Agency and known as the Rapid Access Computing Environment, or RACE, offers access to on-demand virtual Windows and Linux development environments. Participants will be able to use all available programming languages supported by Windows Server and the Linux, Apache, MYSQL and PHP (LAMP) frameworks. They also will be able to build emulated BlackBerry, iPhone and Android applications.

Forge.mil will serve as the collaborative software repository for competitors. The tools inherent in milBook and AKO will facilitate the cross-pollination of ideas, problems and solutions relevant to the Apps for the Army initiative.

The registration form, rules and instructions are located at the Apps for the Army Web site: [www.army.mil/ciog6/armyapps](http://www.army.mil/ciog6/armyapps). Rolling registration begins March 1 and apps must be submitted by May 15. Please address questions to CIO/G6ArmyApps@conus.mil.

## New Policy Authorizes Social Media Access, With Caveats

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, DC -- Attention all Facebookers, Twitter tweeters and YouTubeers: a new Defense Department policy authorizes you to access these and other Web 2.0 platforms from nonclassified government computers, as long as it doesn't compromise operational security or involve prohibited activities or Web sites.

Defense Department officials issued the long-awaited policy today, establishing consistent rules for all military members and employers. Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III, who signed the policy, said it strikes a critical balance between the benefits and potential vulnerabilities of these applications. "This directive recognizes the importance of balancing appropriate security measures while maximizing the capabilities afforded by 21st-century Internet tools," he said.

While authorizing access to these tools, the new policy also recognizes the importance of protecting military networks and operations, explained David M. Wennergren, deputy assistant secretary of defense for information management and technology.

For example, the new policy allows commanders to temporarily limit that access as required to maintain operations security or address bandwidth constraints. It also prohibits malicious activity on military information networks and denies access to sites promoting prohibited activity such as gambling, pornography and hate crimes.

While information sharing may seem the polar opposite of security to some people, Wennergren said the Defense Department can no longer afford to consider just one or the other.

"If you look at either one individually, you will fail," he said. "You will have great security, but no ability to access information sharing. [Or], if you think only about sharing, you will run into issues of operational security and letting bad things into your system. So you can no longer think of them as two separate subjects."

The new policy promotes what Wennergren calls "secure information sharing," providing the balance needed to tap into the capabilities social media networking provides without compromising security.

He emphasized the importance of personal responsibility in using unclassified military networks to access these tools, and said the department will continue to evaluate the policy after it takes effect.

"There's a huge imperative for security," Wennergren said. "It is everyone's responsibility in the department to make sure they are doing all that they can to protect our information and our information systems."

Ultimately, he called responsible, security-conscious use of social media networks a win-win proposition for the Defense Department and its members, enabling them to take full advantage of the power of social media networking.

"The world of Web 2.0 and the Internet provides these amazing opportunities to collaborate," Wennergren said. It not only promotes information sharing across organizational boundaries and with mission partners, but also enables deployed troops to maintain contact with their loved ones at home.

"So if you work on those two pieces" -- access and security -- "this really is giving people this avenue to do amazing things in terms of getting the information shared and making decisions happen much more rapidly," Wennergren said.

Until now, most servicemembers have been able to access social media platforms from their government computers, but policies have not been consistent across the department. The Marine Corps instituted a policy in early 2007 blocking Marines from accessing these sites through the Marine networks. Marines have, however, been permitted to access the sites from personal computers.

## Military OneSource offers free tax filing

By Elaine Wilson  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Defense officials encourage military families to once again take advantage of the free electronic tax filing services offered through Military OneSource.

People can access the H&R Block at Home program by going to Military OneSource at <http://www.militaryonesource.com/> and clicking on "Tax Filing Services."

More than 200,000 servicemembers filed their tax returns through this resource last year, officials said.

"We have such a mobile force, and you have folks dispersed all over the world. It's a quick link for the family to link up with the [servicemember]," said Tommy T. Thomas, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy. "It's a convenience for you to be able to go on that site and file that tax form."

The program is open to active-duty, Guard and Reserve servicemembers, regardless of activation status, as well as spouses, dependent children and family members standing in for a deployed servicemember.

Participants can e-file up to three state resident returns for each federal return, Thomas said. However, he added, they should ensure they're filing through Military OneSource. People who file through H&R Block directly may be charged for services, he cautioned.

The program is set up for basic returns. People who wish to upgrade to the premium program also may incur charges.

For tax assistance, filers can call a Military OneSource tax consultant from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. EST, seven-days-a-week, at 1-800-730-3802.

"That's a tremendous service," Thomas said. "We feel it's important to give our military families the absolute best."

Along with the consultants, people with complicated tax returns can visit a legal assistance office on a military installation for more in-depth advice, he said.

Whether online or on base, people should file early, Thomas advised.

"Don't run up against the 15 April deadline," he said. "And when you get the return, look at it as the means to secure your family's finances," whether its paying off debts, adding to a savings account or contributing to a Thrift Savings Plan.

## Chapel Religious Services

By Chaplain Office Staff



**Religious Support Office**  
Bldg 233, Brooke St.  
Ft. Buchanan, PR 00934

Office: (787) 707-3904 Fax: (787) 707-3829

**Roman Catholic Services**

1700 Saturdays  
1130 Sundays

**Protestant Services**

0930 Sundays

Bible studies, youth activities, adult groups, and other events are available.





## Ban on USB devices in Army remains -- for now

By C. Todd Lopez

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- The ban on using USB devices on military computers remains, for now, in the Army -- despite a partial lift of the original ban by U.S. Strategic Command.

USSTRATCOM issued a tasking order to services and concerned parties, Feb. 12, that allows the services to loosen restrictions on use of USB and flash media devices. Individual services, however, may continue the ban until they feel their networks are adequately equipped to deal with the threats posed by the portable storage devices.

The official word from the Army Global Network Operations Security Center is "we are currently conducting mission analysis in order to provide guidance for the Army's safe return of thumb drives and flash media."

According to the AGNOSC, there are conditions that must be met prior to the lift of the ban. Those conditions include, but are not limited to ensuring that users are only using government-approved and purchased devices and that Army networks are properly configured.

The U.S. Strategic Command implemented a ban on USB storage devices in November 2008, to include such things as memory sticks, thumb drives, and camera memory cards. That ban was partially lifted by their tasking order Feb. 12.

The USSTRATCOM commander has "approved a Communications Tasking Order directing that the limited use of memory sticks, thumb drives, and camera memory cards (commonly called 'flash media,') be restored on Department of Defense computers after the verified implementation of certain procedures and operational practices," according to guidance from the U.S. Strategic Command.

The procedures are meant to ensure that malicious code that can be present on USB memory devices is prevented from infecting DoD computers.

"Until all conditions are met, the ban on the use of removable flash drives will remain," said AGNOSC.

## National Women's History Month -- March

By Army News Service

In 1911 in Europe, March 8 was first celebrated as International Women's Day. In many European nations, as well as in the United States, women's rights were a political hot topic. But with the economic depression of the 1930s, then World War II, women's rights went out of fashion.

In the 1960's, with women's liberation, interest in women's issues and women's history grew. In the 1970's women's history was still considered a virtually unknown topic in K-12 curriculum or in the general public consciousness. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (CA) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration.

In 1980, the National Women's History Project (NWHF) was founded in Santa Rosa, CA. In 1987, the NWHF led a coalition that successfully lobbied Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March as National Women's History Month.

National Women's History Month is now celebrated across the United States. Each year, programs and activities in schools, workplaces, and communities have become more extensive as information and program ideas are developed and shared.

Women have served in the United States Army since 1775 with the beginning of the American Revolution to the current conflict. Today, men and women train together in basic training units and female Soldiers serve in myriad of officer and enlisted specialties. Currently, women serve in 93 percent of all Army occupations and women comprise 13.4 percent of the Active Army.

Throughout the U.S. Army's history, women have proven that when freedom is threatened, they have the hearts of warriors and have responded with invaluable service. The Army is committed to being proactive in ensuring our military is a reflection of the diversity of our society and offers a wealth of opportunity to its Women Soldiers.

The National Women's History Month theme for 2010 is "Writing Women Back into History" recognizing all aspects of

women's achievements. Dept. of Army celebrations are encouraged to promote activities and events that highlight the opportunities for career advancement in the



Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester

During an ambush of her convoy in Iraq, Sergeant Hester and her squad repelled at least 30 insurgents. The actions of Sergeant Hester and her comrades earned them great praise for their tactics and actions. Leigh Ann Hester became the first woman to earn the Silver Star Medal for exceptional valor since World War II.



Spc. Monica Brown

Spc. Monica Brown is the second female Soldier since World War II, awarded a Silver Star for her gallant actions during combat in Afghanistan last year.

Army and the significant contributions of women in the Army family throughout the month of March. Here are a few examples of History of Women in the Army:



Command Sgt. Maj. Teresa King

On Sept. 22, 2009, Command Sgt. Maj. Teresa King became the first female commandant of the Drill Sergeant School at Fort Jackson, S.C. King said it is important to note that a hard worker will shine, regardless of gender.



Lt. Gen. Claudia Kennedy

Claudia Kennedy was the first woman to achieve and hold the rank of Lieutenant General. Her promotion also led to her being named the Army Deputy Chief of Staff Intelligence.

## How to Speak Puerto Rican

by Joseph Deliz Hernandez, Esq.

### "La mancha de plátano"

*Liberal Translation:* The plantain stain.

*Social Meaning:* Having a "plantain stain" means that an individual is from Puerto Rico. A person is said to have the plantain stain on his skin, which shows that he's from the island or is of Puerto Rican descent.

*Example:* "¡Esa mancha de plátano no te la quita ni el medico chino!" (Not even a Chinese doctor can take away your being Puerto Rican!)



Reprinted with permission



## CSM Safety Tips



**No Headphones** — No headphones or earphones (that means iPods or Walkmen, etc.) while walking or jogging on or alongside roadways. This is not an option. You will be cited by law enforcement. Ear pieces and headphones can only be worn inside the Fitness Center.

**Run or walk approaching traffic** — All runners/walkers are required to run or walk facing oncoming traffic (left side of the road). The runner/walker's back should never be to the traffic.

This allows the runner/walker to maintain eye-to-eye contact with the vehicle operator and gives the runner/walker a chance to react should the vehicle come too close. Vehicle operators should not have to guess what a runner/walker is going to do.

This rule ensures the safety of both the vehicle operator and the runner/walker.

**Reflective Belts** — When conducting physical training outdoors, each person must wear a reflective belt or vest at all times, regardless of the time of day.

## Safety is everyone's business



Source: Sergeant Major David U.S. Army, Carroll, Fort Belvoir, AR 81100-0000





## 973rd Quartermaster Company (WS) Award Ceremony

By El Morro Staff



During a simple yet meaningful ceremony, Col. Edwin C. Domingo addressed Soldiers of the 973rd Quartermaster Company (WS) and recognized their efforts during the short period of their mobilization.

The unit, which is specialized in water purification, was mobilized in support of Operation United Response, the Department of Defense relief efforts in Haiti after the devastating earthquake on Jan 12 that destroyed the capital city of Port-au-Prince and left millions homeless without food, water, medicine and shelter.

Col. Domingo was very grateful and thanked each Soldier for their outstanding performance and readiness. "You not only did an outstanding job for your command but for the entire Nation," Domingo stated.

After his speech he proceeded to present awards to them which read: "for outstanding achievement in the performance of your duties as a member of the 973rd Quartermaster Company (WS) during the preparation for deployment in support of Operation United Response, Disaster Relief Mission to Haiti. You have distinguished yourself as an integral part of this unit. Your hard work and perseverance reflects great credit upon yourself, your unit and the United States Army Reserve."







# Brig. Gen. Rogers addresses Fort Buchanan's Community during African American History event

By Grissel Rosa  
USAG PAO



Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Rogers, Director of Operations, Installation Management Command (IMCOM) addressing those attending the African American History Month Event.

Photo by Marcos Orengo

"Black History is about having the courage to dream." These words marked the opening of Brigadier General Dennis E. Rogers' speech during Fort Buchanan's Black History Celebration held Feb. 19 at the Community Club. The Director of Operations and Facilities Headquarters for the Installation Management Command (IMCOM G3) recognized the many contributions and accomplishments of African Americans as well as other ethnic groups.

Rogers mentioned some of the "pillars who paved the road with blood and sweat and because of them I can be here today. They are pillars in the Civil Rights Movement. The same pillars you see in other cultures like Asian, Native American and Hispanic American, like Sonia Sotomayor." He continued, "The Civil Rights Movement paved the way for others as well, because when one gains others gain."

He encouraged the audience to "talk to people around you. There are so many people around the world who have so many talents." He described the connection among all people in the form of support and visualized it like standing on each other's shoulders. "Standing on the shoulder of so many people that have come before me," he said. It is what you learn from each other and what you pass on to the person next to you. It is the skills and talents that help us achieve our goals not only as individuals but as members of a group, of society as a whole.

"There are Puerto Ricans of African American descent," said Rogers. He mentioned some Puerto Ricans who distinguished themselves in different facets of society such as Wilfredo Benítez, boxing; Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos, lawyer; the Cepeda family, music; Roberto Clemente, Major League baseball and Rafael Cordero, education. He highlighted the military contributions of the 65th Infantry Regiment "who supported, protected, defended and allowed fellow comrades to stand in their shoulders."

Brig. Gen. Rogers promoted the idea of supporting others as an action that would benefit all because when you provide support to others to get higher, you get higher. He recalled the contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Andrew Young and General Colin Powell. "I encourage you to seek members of other ethnicities and learn about their

contributions. Ask yourself: In whose shoulders am I standing? Who am I going to allow to stand on my shoulders?"

IMCOM G3 Director, remembered how he became a Soldier and most important, why. He was raised by three generations of "strong black women - my mother, her mother and grandmother." He grew up with two sisters and three brothers in a situation he described as with very limited resources. He lived in projects and never envisioned to become an officer in the Army. However, he was determined to succeed. "Regardless of the situation, it doesn't define me. I knew what I wanted to be in life. I wanted to be a Soldier." Therefore, he

changed his life by changing his circumstances. "I read war books at 6th and 7th grade," continued Rogers "and changed the situations in my life by setting a goal. Regardless of what you see now, the history you live has significance. And I wanted to be a Soldier and command."

Rogers' accomplishments are many. He went from Platoon Leader in Fort Stewart, Georgia to Executive Officer in Korea and Germany, to Chief, G-3, 3rd Infantry Division in the United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany, our guest speaker for Black History Month also has under his belt significant joint assignments as Pacific War Planner with The Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. and Assistant Chief of Staff G-3, III Corps with duty as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, G-3, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He holds two

Masters Degrees, one in Strategic Studies and another in Public Administration. His many decorations and badges attest for the bravery of this warrior for whom "becoming a general officer exceeded my goals."

As a general officer in the United States Army, Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Rogers emphasized three key elements that every Soldier must have - Leadership, Compassion and Commitment to Service. "You need to have ambition to go through life, help others, and become a beacon of light for others to follow...because when one gains, we all gain."

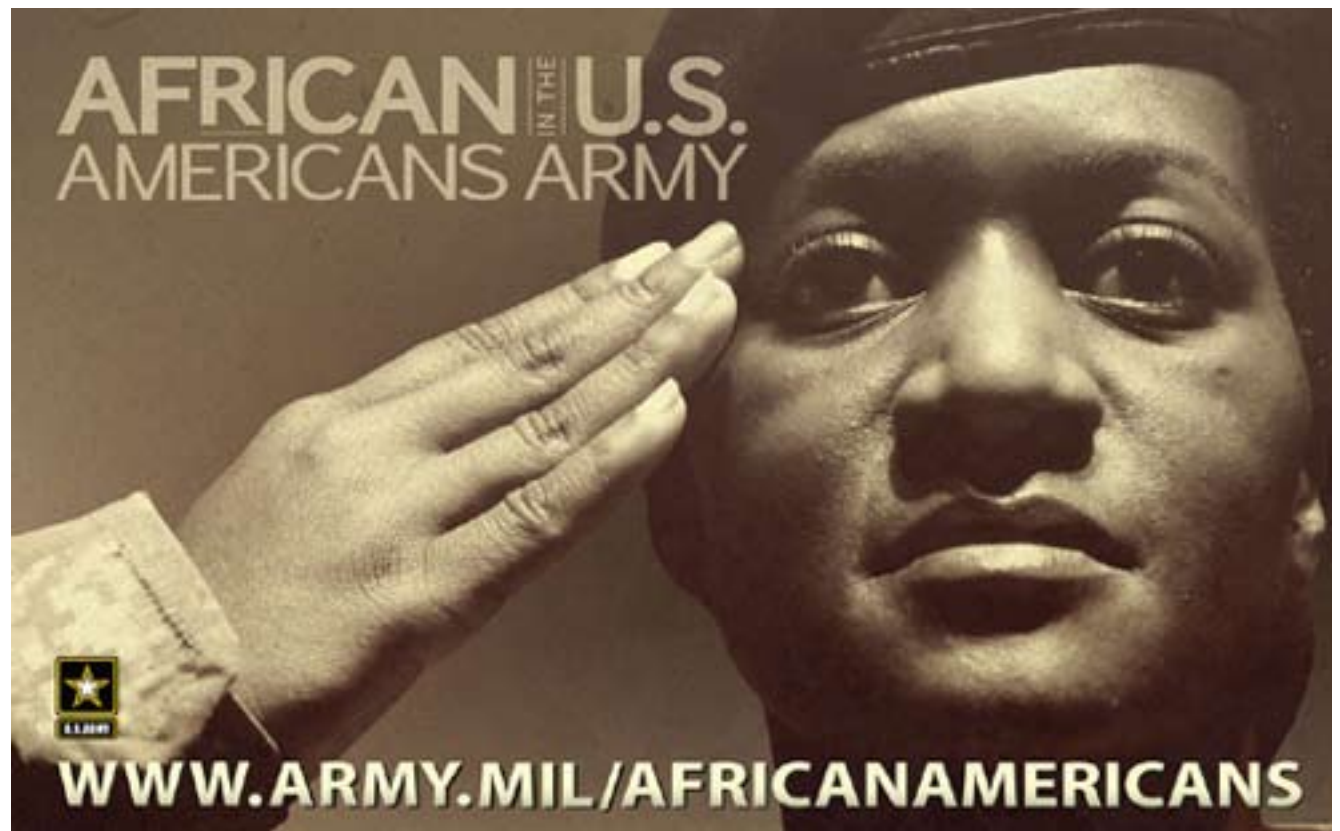
Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Rogers was assigned as the Operations and Facilities (G3), Installation Management Command (IMCOM) on 31 July 07. IMCOM is an Army Direct Reporting Unit responsible for operating Army installations throughout the world.

He is a graduate of Kemper Military College in Boonville, MO and from the University of South Alabama, where he received his Bachelors degree in History.

Rogers is a graduate of the following military schools/courses: Air Assault, Airborne, and Ranger School, Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the United States Army War College. Over the past 28 years, he has served at all levels of command and leadership, from Platoon Leader, Battalion Commander, Brigade Commander to Chief of Staff, US Army Accessions Command, Ft. Monroe, VA.

General Rogers' awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Bronze Star Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, Combat Action Badge, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

General Rogers is married to Dr. Maria T. Rogers and has two sons: Victor, a senior at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA and Derek, and two stepdaughters: Adriana, a sophomore at State University of New York at Old Westbury, and Arielle.





## Fort Buchanan's Community Celebrates African American History

Photos By Marcos Orenco



"In the centuries since African American first arrived on our shores, they have known the bitterness of slavery and oppression, the hope of progress, and the triumph of the American Dream. African American history is an essential thread of the American narrative that traces our Nation's enduring struggle to protect itself. Each February, we recognize African American History Month as a moment to reflect upon how far we have come as a Nation, and what challenges remain. This year's theme, **"the History of Black Economic Empowerment,"** calls upon us to honor the African Americans who overcame injustice and inequality to achieve financial independence and the security of self empowerment that comes with it."

Proclamation by Pres. Barack Obama



Photos (clockwise from above): Fort Buchanan Garrison Commander Col Edwin C. Domingo addressing the audience; Audience gives Brig. Gen. Rogers a standing ovation; CW3 Sonia Y. Graves performs a Praise Dance to the song: "Someone Watching Over You – Yolanda Adams"; EEO Staff and organizers. Sgt. 1st Class Brian C. Powers, Brig. Gen. Rogers, CWO Graves, Ms Rivera, and Hector Santiago; Command Group with Brig. Gen. Rogers; Brig. Gen. Rogers presents a Certificate and IMCOM coin to Ms. Rita Nieves.







## Paratrooper saves gunner from burning Humvee

By Tina Ray  
Fort Bragg Paraglide Staff



Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, XVIII Airborne Corps commander, pins the Bronze Star with Valor on 1st Lt. Luis Reyes, Infantry platoon leader, Troop B, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, during a ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C. on Feb. 12. Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (Army News Service) -- Two acts of bravery saved the life of a Soldier, whom others said most definitely would have died had it not been for the heroic action.

On May 17 in the Rusafa district of Baghdad, 1st Lt. Luis Reyes of Puerto Rico, twice entered a burning Humvee to rescue his injured gunner, Spc. Robert Mayes. The two men were assigned to the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

Not only was their Humvee hit by an improvised explosive device, but the vehicle began to burn after the ammunition stored between its rear seats exploded after a projectile struck it following the first attack, said Col. David Buckingham, squadron commander of the 73rd Cavalry Regiment.

"There is no question that Lieutenant Reyes' valor in entering the burning vehicle, then re-entering the vehicle after the explosion of the ammunition, saved Specialist Mayes' life," said Buckingham, who with Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, XVIII Airborne Corps commander pinned the Bronze Star with Valor medal on Reyes' chest Feb. 12.

Mayes' left leg had been badly injured by the projectile while the exploding ammunition burned Reyes' face. Buckingham said Mayes would not have made it out of the burning vehicle had it not been for Reyes' valorous conduct.

"He's my lifeline. He saved my life," Mayes said following the ceremony. "He did his job. He did what he was supposed to do and showed the leadership that he was trained to do."

"That kind of leadership is not uncommon in the 82nd Airborne Division," said Helmick. He said that Reyes' instincts not to leave a fallen comrade behind took over and compelled him to rescue his brother-in-arms from a burning vehicle.

"I knew he was hurt and couldn't get out, so priority one was to get that man out of that situation," said Reyes, who joined the Army two and a half years ago.

In an earlier award ceremony at Combat Outpost Cashe South, Iraq, located in the Ma'dain region outside eastern Baghdad, Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby, Commanding General, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, pinned the Purple Heart medal on Reyes for an injury sustained during the operation.

## Post Exchange Conducts Community Awareness

By El Morro Staff

The Fort Buchanan Post Exchange (PX), sponsored a Community Awareness Program in conjunction with the municipality of Dorado for middle school students on 26 February. The activity was coordinated by Mr Brain K. Johnson, Area Loss Prevention Manager for AAFES.

The intent of the activity was with to emphasis safety and shoplifting awareness among 4th, 5th and 6th grade students from the Jose de Diego School in Dorado. Upon arrival at the PX, the students were welcomed by Fort Buchanan's best known mascots Sparky from the Installation Fire Department and crime fighter Agent McGruff, both on duty for the Directorate of Emergency Services.

The Mayor of Dorado, Hon. Carlos A. Lopez Rivera accompanied the 130 students and teachers during the visit.

As part of the awareness program, the students were given lectures on drug prevention by DARE Program coordinator Officer David Deida, fire prevention and safety by Sparky and installation firefighter Hector Lopez, who allowed the students to board the fire engine, and by Mayor Lopez who offered an interesting briefing on safety awareness, special schools and education programs.

The fun didn't end there the students were treated to a pizza lunch and given gift packages with educational information and knickknacks.

Johnson invited the mayor to lunch with the AAFES staff and later to a tour the PX security room facilities. At the security room, Lopez saw firsthand the intricate security surveillance system AAFES has in place to monitor all areas of the store.

He saw the screen which shows the 62 cameras throughout the store which run 24/7. While there he discussed his interest in having this type of security system in all the shopping malls and streets of Puerto Rico as a crime deterrent.

Finally, the mayor was the first to try out the CONVINCER, a traffic accident simulator that the Fort Buchanan Police have to develop seatbelt safety awareness.

The event was a total success for both communities as the students left Fort Buchanan with a better understanding of security and safety issues as shown by the photos below.







## Army Wounded Warrior Web Site Upgraded

Army News Service

The Department of Defense announced today that its National Resource Directory (NRD) Web site for wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans, their families and those who support them, recently received a comprehensive system upgrade to provide users with easier access.

This Web site is a collaborative effort between the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs (VA) and Labor (DOL), and compiles federal, state, local and non-profit resources for wounded warriors, veterans, family members and caregivers in a single, searchable site.

"We worked closely with users of the National Resource Directory to find out how to make the information they need easier to find," said Noel Koch, deputy under secretary of defense for Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy. "The resulting re-design is easier to navigate and adds useful new features."

The upgrade makes the latest wounded warrior and veteran issues easier to locate and follow. A new "bookmark and share" application helps visitors alert others to the content they've found most helpful through social bookmarking, Facebook, Twitter, and other social networking tools. Visitors can also subscribe to Really Simple Syndication (RSS) or e-mail updates to receive new content, events and features based on their specific interests and needs.

"There are thousands of programs and benefits available to wounded warriors and their families, from healthcare and housing to education and employment assistance," said Koch. "Our people must have an easy way to sift through it all to find the resources that are most helpful for their circumstances, especially while they're dealing with what can be overwhelming challenges. That's why we've partnered with the VA and Department of Labor to offer the National Resource Directory. And with the feedback mechanisms we've added in the re-design, we'll be able to keep improving our service to our wounded warriors and families."

The faster, enhanced search engine ranks information based on the popularity of the sources among other site users, so the most valuable resources rise to the top of the search results. Visitors can tailor searches for resources in specific states and territories, and apply filters to narrow their searches.

The re-designed site also highlights resources to assist homeless veterans. NRD users can also recommend additional resources. All resources are thoroughly vetted prior to inclusion on the National Resource Directory, and as always, content is updated and reviewed daily by a content management team which includes veterans and subject matter experts.

## Army Wounded Warrior Program

Army News Service

Taking care of wounded warriors is an important part of the Army's mission. The Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) is the official U.S. Army program that assists and advocates for severely wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families, wherever they are located, for as long as it takes. AW2 provides individualized support to this unique population of Soldiers, who were injured or became ill during their service in Overseas Contingency Operations since 9/11.

AW2 is a key component of the Army's commitment, the Army Family Covenant, to wounded warriors and their Families. All wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers—who are expected to require six months of rehabilitative care and the need for complex medical management—are assigned to a Warrior Transition Unit to focus on healing before returning to duty or transitioning to Veteran status. Those who meet AW2 eligibility are simultaneously assigned to the AW2 and receive a local AW2 Advocate to personally assist them long term.

Wounded Soldiers are eligible for a wide array of benefits in order to help them recover physically, prepare financially and build their skills for a rewarding career. AW2 Advocates will ensure that AW2 Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families are connected with these benefits and services, which span:

- Career & Education
- Finance
- Healthcare
- Human Resources
- Insurance
- Retirement and Transition
- Services for Families

The AW2 Program is the only Army program that assists and advocates from the time of injury and continues throughout the Wounded Warrior Lifecycle of Care of AW2 Soldiers and is not limited by physical location or constrained by recovery or rehabilitation timelines.

Soldiers have given so much, and the AW2 Program is committed to ensuring that the unique population of AW2 Soldiers and their Families are given the best possible care and successfully return to duty or transition to civilian life.



## Analysis program focuses on preventing combat injuries

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

FORT DETRICK, Md. -- Every time a servicemember is killed or wounded in combat, it sets off a sweeping process aimed at identifying what happened, who perpetrated it and how it might have been prevented -- and instituting changes to reduce the likelihood of it being repeated.

The Joint Trauma Analysis and Prevention of Injury in Combat Program brings together experts within the Defense Department's medical, operational, intelligence and material development communities, who analyze each casualty to glean life-saving lessons, explained Lt. Col. Mark Dick, the program manager.

They study autopsy information, pore through after-action reports and medical files, assess vehicle damage reports and ballistic studies and conduct computer models and simulations to replicate and confirm operational events.

The goal, Dick said, is to identify vulnerabilities and give decision-makers the concrete findings they need to help shore them up. The JTAPIC program stood up in 2007 to tap into the full spectrum of expertise across the department to mitigate combat risk. The Army serves as the executive agent, with the program office based at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Md.

Although leaders may have a hunch about what caused a catastrophic incident, Dick said the JTAPIC analyses provide a scientific assessment that addresses the myriad factors involved.

"If you make a decision based on just one subset of the data, you don't always come to the appropriate conclusion," he said. "We take everything from medical data to threat data to [data about the] operational environment, and we integrate those into analysis products." JTAPIC analyses have revealed everything from the need to change tactics, techniques and procedures, to modify weapons systems and how they're used, to provide better force protection and medical care for wounded troops, he said.

They've sparked changes in the way the military operates, the equipment it purchases and the protections it provides its troops.

Some findings get passed directly to commanders on the ground, who in some cases can introduce immediate changes to reduce their troops' vulnerability to enemy threats, Dick said. In other cases, the analyses lead to longer-term changes that impact the broader military community. They can result in doctrinal changes that guide military operations or the warfighter training programs.

They also can impact weapons systems -- how they're designed, what capabilities they have and what force protections they include. Rather than making specific recommendations to program managers, Dick's team provides analyses to help program managers in their acquisition decisions.

Dick acknowledges that the true impact of the program is hard to quantify, because it's largely measured in injuries prevented and lives saved rather than lost.

"We don't always see the success stories, where there was an incident and Soldiers, because of the protective systems that have been incorporated, have walked away," he said. "In some cases, they may have been treated at the platoon level, or immediately gone back to the fight, and we never hear about it."

But Dick has little doubt that the JTAPIC program is making a difference for troops on the front lines -- and will continue to benefit tomorrow's servicemembers as well. Let me suffice it to say that what we're doing is limiting the number of lost lives, and it's also limiting the severity of injuries," he said. "This effort has increased Soldier survivability, and the safety of our combat systems."

Dick praised the commitment of JTAPIC partners, who, by leveraging existing programs and infrastructure, have provided a critical new capability. "It's been a success story in itself," he said.







By Army News Service

The Army Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) Program is a part of the DoD's overall Force Health Protection Program. The screening is designed to address deployment-related physical and behavioral health needs and readjustment concerns of Army Soldiers 90-180 days after returning from a combat deployment.

The program demonstrates the Army's commitment to the long-term health and well-being of Soldiers and Department of the Army (DA) Civilians.

#### Why Complete the PDHRA?

**For Yourself:** The PDHRA empowers each of you to take control of your health. By identifying your health and readjustment concerns early, you can resolve problems that could -- if left unattended -- negatively affect your deployment status, career or life beyond service.

**For Your Family:** Your Family's peace of mind is an important part of your own well-being. Some Family members worry about how deployments can affect you. Therefore, your health concerns have a direct effect on your family. The PDHRA can aid you in identifying your health concerns and linking you to the appropriate resources.

**For the Army:** Deployment-related health concerns and problems may appear subtly over time and go unnoticed, even among unit leaders and fellow Soldiers. When you complete the PDHRA and answer candidly about your health status and concerns, the reassessment provides health care personnel with a comprehensive view of your health status. A healthy Soldier is a ready Soldier -- ready not only for deployment, but for life after deployment.

**For the Future:** By completing the PDHRA, you enable health care providers to initiate early medical care for your deployment health concerns. Early treatment can keep medical concerns from becoming chronic problems.

The PDHRA Program was mandated by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs in March 2005 and is designed to identify and address health concerns, both behavioral and physical, that have emerged over time since a combat deployment. The screening should take place 90-180 days after returning from a combat zone.

The PDHRA may include Soldiers taking part in Battlemind Training for PDHRA, which emphasizes safe and healthy personal relationships and teaches Soldiers to look out for each other's health.

Soldiers must complete the demographic portion of the DD Form 2900, a questionnaire that asks about physical and behavioral health concerns; however, Soldiers are encouraged to answer all questions. Also, Soldiers will speak one-on-one with a health care provider.

How do I complete the PDHRA?

There are three steps to completing the PDHRA including:

**Step 1 - Battlemind Training for PDHRA:** This training addresses issues commonly experienced due to deployment and highlights that everyone is affected by combat. The Battlemind Training for PDHRA is preferably completed in small groups organized by your Command. The purpose of the small groups is to encourage interaction and discussion. The Battlemind Training for PDHRA focuses on transitioning back home from combat. The training is usually given by behavioral health personnel, chaplains or other personnel (e.g. senior NCOs) who are familiar with behavioral health issues, the referral process and who also have deployment experience.

**Step 2 - DD Form 2900 -** This form helps document your health concerns, assessment and referrals. As directed by your Command, complete the Soldier's portion of the DD Form 2900. Your Command may instruct you to complete your part on AKO or wait to complete it as part of a group event. Completion of the demographic section of the DD Form 2900 is mandatory including information such as your name, pay grade and location of operation. The remaining responses, although voluntary, are highly encouraged. The PDHRA is a confidential health screening and your answers are considered privileged information. Release of this information to parties who do not have a medical need to know may constitute a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996. If you are directed to complete the screening online on AKO, please click the link on the left menu bar.

**Step 3 - Interview -** After completing the DD Form 2900 Questionnaire, you will go over these questions with a medical professional. If necessary he/she will refer you to further medical attention. If you completed the DD Form 2900 on AKO, you may complete the interview portion of the screening by contacting your Command or RSC PDHRA Coordinator for more details. If you were directed by your Command to attend a PDHRA event, you will have

an opportunity to complete the medical interview portion at this event.

Here are some of the most frequent question asked about PDHRA:

**Q1:** I need medical attention now for my deployment-related health concerns, do I need to wait for the PDHRA?

**A1:** No, you should not wait for the PDHRA. In emergency cases, Soldiers should first call 911 for immediate medical care. In non-emergency cases, Soldiers should call the Army PDHRA Call Center at 1-888-PDHRA-99. The Soldier's chain of command will provide assistance as needed.

**Q2:** How do U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers complete the PDHRA?

**A2:** U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers will be notified by their commander when it's time to complete the PDHRA through one of two ways:

1) As part of a unit-scheduled screening event - or -

2) Via the PDHRA Call Center. Begin by visiting the "PDHRA for Soldiers" page in AKO (<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/200435>) and scroll down to the section, "How do I start the PDHRA screening?" Click on this link and it will take you to the form. After filling out the DD Form 2900, you then complete the PDHRA by speaking with a trained health care provider located at the PDHRA Call Center (888-PDHRA-99 or 888-734-7299).

**Q3:** What if I don't have an AKO account?

**A3:** If you don't have an AKO account, contact the PDHRA Call Center (1-888-734-7299) to complete the DD Form 2900 and speak to a health care provider.

**Q4:** Am I done with the PDHRA once I complete the PDHRA form on AKO?

**A4:** No, you must then call the PDHRA Call Center to speak to a health care provider in order to complete the PDHRA screening process.

**Q5:** Why is my stoplight red in "My Medical Readiness" in AKO when I completed the PDHRA online?

**A5:** Your stoplight is red because the PDHRA is only partially complete. To finish the PDHRA screening, you need to contact the PDHRA Call Center at 888-PDHRA-99 (888-734-7299) and speak to a health care provider in order to complete the PDHRA screening process.

**Q6:** I completed the PDHRA at the DEMOB site. Do I have to do it again?

**A6:** The DD Form 2796, Post Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA), is completed at the DEMOB site. The DD Form 2900, the PDHRA, is completed

90-180 days after redeployment. These two forms are very similar. It may seem repetitive, but most readjustment issues evolve in the months following deployment. In order to capture any deployment-related health concerns that need to be addressed, the U.S. Army mandates that Soldiers be offered a reassessment using the DD Form 2900 90-180 days after redeployment from a Combat Zone.

**Q7:** Will the results of the PDHRA be reported to my chain of command? Is it confidential?

**A7:** If the Soldier's PDHRA results in follow-on care or treatment, an evaluation Line of Duty (LOD) is generated on a DD Form 2173 for the Commander's signature. Details of the health screening are kept confidential in accordance with the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Privacy Act and are not disclosed on the LOD form.

**Q8:** How long can I get treatment for my condition? Am I entitled to disability?

**A8:** The PDHRA is a health screening only. Referrals are given to Soldiers if treatment or evaluation is necessary. After the Soldier follows up on that referral a diagnosis may be given. Any disability decisions will be made using existing requirements and Line of Duty determinations.

**Q9:** Will my security clearance be affected if I receive a referral for counseling?

**A9:** On 1 May 2008 the Department of Defense announced the revision of Question 21 on the National Security Positions Questionnaire (Standard Form 86). The revision now excludes counseling for adjustments from service in a military combat environment, as well as counseling related to marital, family and grief issues.

**Q10:** I'm already getting care at a VA facility. Do I still need to complete the PDHRA?

**A10:** Yes. The PDHRA is critical in helping the Army identify what health concerns Soldiers experience post deployment and how to improve the overall process for Reserve Component Soldiers. It's also designed to make sure Soldiers are aware of resources available to them and their Families.

Fort Buchanan Garrison falls under the Southern Region Medical Command, for more information contact Mr. Mike Burley at 706-787-1582.

Army Reserve personnel contact SFC Adalberto Bonilla, 1st MSC, Fort Buchanan at 787-707-4975





## BCT overhaul: Changes coming to Basic Combat Training

By Steve Reeves, Fort Jackson Leader



Bayonet training may soon be eliminated from BCT according to Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, Dep. Commanding General for Initial Military Training. Photo Credit: File photo.

FORT JACKSON, S.C. -- Basic Combat Training (BCT) is getting ready for some major changes to reflect the modern battlefield, said Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, deputy commanding general for Initial Military Training.

Hertling, who is responsible for managing the training of Soldiers from the day they enter the Army until they report to their first duty assignments, made his remarks last week during a visit to Fort Jackson, the largest of the Army's five basic training centers.

"We really took a look at the relevancy of what we're doing," Hertling said. "We're teaching Soldiers too much stuff." One of the changes Hertling wants to implement is the elimination of bayonet drills, a long-time staple of BCT.

Hertling also wants Soldiers to focus less on traditional combatives moves such as grappling and, focus instead on fighting with their hands and knives or other objects. He said Soldiers need to learn how to fight with their hands to make their combat skills more suited to existing battlefield conditions.

"The great majority of our Soldiers come into training having never had a fistfight," Hertling said.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have made it necessary to revamp how many Soldier tasks, such as first aid and marksmanship, are taught, Hertling said.

Hertling said there will be a renewed interest in Army values and wrapping Soldier training around those values. Also, BCT will focus on producing Soldiers at a consistent quality level with the same standards throughout the Army. The key to a consistent product is drill sergeant execution and warrior tasks/battle drills, he said. Changes to physical training and fitness are already in progress, he said.

"I'm a believer that we need something relevant to the conditions on the battlefield," Hertling said.

During his visit to Fort Jackson, Hertling spoke at the post theater during the quarterly Leadership and Training Guest Speaker Program about the challenges facing the Army. Hertling said TRADOC Soldiers are a critical part of preparing the Army to continue fighting successfully.

"Training Soldiers is the least sexy, most important job in the Army," he said.

Hertling delivered a similar message when he addressed an audience of drill sergeant candidates the day before.

"What (Soldiers) become is what you help them become," he said. "That's what being a drill sergeant is all about. Those Soldiers are your credentials."

Hertling is assigned to the Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va.

## Prevent Dengue Fever

By DPW Environmental Division

FORT BUCHANAN, P.R. -- Due to the dengue fever surging in Puerto Rico and the San Juan-Bayamon metropolitan area, it is very important that we share with our communities as much information as possible in order to educate the public on the dengue fever and mosquito prevention. Here is something facts you should:

### What is dengue?

Dengue is a flu-like illness spread by the bite of an infected mosquito.

### What is dengue hemorrhagic fever?

Dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) is a severe, often fatal, complication of dengue.

### How is dengue spread?

Dengue is spread by the bite of an Aedes mosquito. The mosquito transmits the disease by biting an infected person and then biting someone else.

### Who is at risk for dengue?

Anyone who is bitten by an infected mosquito can get dengue. Risk factors for dengue hemorrhagic fever include a person's age and immune status, as well as the type of infecting virus. Persons who were previously infected with one or more types of dengue virus are thought to be at greater risk for developing dengue hemorrhagic fever if infected again.

### How can dengue be prevented?

There is no vaccine to prevent dengue. Prevention centers on avoiding mosquito bites when traveling to areas where dengue occurs, or when in U.S. areas, especially at the tropical island of Puerto Rico. Eliminating mosquito-breeding sites is another key prevention measure. Prevent mosquito bites:

- When indoors, stay in air-conditioned or well screened areas. Use bed nets if sleeping in areas that are not screened or air-conditioned.
- When outdoors during times that mosquitoes are biting, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Use mosquito repellents on skin and clothing.
- For your skin, use a product that contains 20-50% DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide). DEET in higher concentrations is no more effective.
- Use DEET sparingly on children, and don't apply to their hands, which they often place in their mouths.
- Apply DEET lightly and evenly to exposed skin; do not use underneath clothing. Avoid contact with eyes, lips, and broken or irritated skin.
- To apply to your face, first dispense a small amount of DEET onto your hands and then carefully spread a thin layer.

### How is Fort Buchanan preventing the dengue fever?

According to the Fort Buchanan Integrated Pest Management Plan, mosquito surveys should be conducted monthly with the support of the Preventive Medicine Personnel in order to monitor the Aedes Aegypti mosquito that transmits the dengue fever. Every month, the Pest Controller and Conservation Manager will place the mosquito magnets in Las Colinas and Coqui Gardens housing area in order to collect mosquito samples. Fact sheets of the Dengue Fever and mosquito has been distributed to the Housing Residents in order to create a campaign to eliminate breeding grounds of disease-carrying mosquitoes. Mosquito control operations are conducted by DPW using truck-mounted fogging units to apply insecticides as an ultra-low-volume (ULV) spray every Monday evening throughout the Installation.

Aedes Aegypti is the mayor vector of dengue viruses worldwide. For more information contact the Environmental Conservation Office at 787-707-3508.

Source: US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Entomological Sciences Program Fact Sheet <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/ento/facts/DengueJT-2005.pdf>

## ARMY EARTH DAY

By Alicia M. Navedo-Núñez  
DPW Environmental Conservation Manager

FORT BUCHANAN, P.R. -- The celebration of Earth Day began forty (40) years ago on 22 April 1970 and has been an important day ever since. Several major accomplishments have taken place since that first Earth Day, such as the establishment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Clean Air Act passed by Congress, and the Federal Occupational Health and Safety Act. Within the next three years, such landmarks as the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act were passed.

The Army's goal is to reduce the Army's "boot print" on the Earth. The Army is doing this by increasing environmental awareness and implementing "sustainability"--- A strategy that uses sound business and environmental practices to link our activities today to those of tomorrow. Sustainability is being instituted on all Army Installations in order to protect our ranges and training areas, building energy conservation into housing and military construction, and reducing impacts from industrial processes. In addition, renewable energy technologies such as solar and wind power are being used to assess the potential for powering electronic communication systems, water purification systems, and reduce the frequency of fuel convoys. Furthermore, the Army is introducing fuel-saving hybrid engines for the Future Combat Systems. To achieve the goal of minimizing the Army's "boot print", this requires the continued personal commitment from every member of the Army team.

The Army Earth Day activity complies with the requirements of Fort Buchanan's Environmental Training Plan as a training and awareness activity. Executive Order 13423 (Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management) and Army Regulation 200-1 require that Fort Buchanan provide environmental training, awareness, and outreach for the community.

The US Government's integrated strategy towards Sustainability as per conceived under new Executive Order 13514; "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance" is to be established within the highest priority at Federal agencies, in order to create a clean energy economy that will increase our Nation's prosperity, promote energy security, protect the interests of taxpayers, and safeguard the health of our environment. The Federal Government must lead by example, especially by supporting sustainable communities.

Earth Day is a powerful reminder that we are responsible, as part of a global community, for the protection of our environment. Everything on this planet is interconnected. The oceans are interconnected by underground passages that can rise to the surface as lakes, streams and ponds. Each person, as well as living and non-living things, has a special function and a place in this world.

The DPW Environmental Division invites the Fort Buchanan community to join us in this thoughtful pledge that we will keep the environment in our mind, in our heart, and at the forefront of everything we do. Collectively, we must make every effort to create a balance between the environment and the military mission in order to benefit today's generation and the generations to come.

Albert Einstein once said: "A human being is part of the whole, called by us "Universe." He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest- a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."





# Fort Buchanan's Preparedness Corner

## Are You Prepared for Emergencies or Disasters?



## Drought and Wildfire Preparedness

By Angel Vazquez  
Ready Army Coordinator, DPTMS

### DROUGHT

A lack of precipitation for an extended period of time can cause a drought. If droughts persist for long periods of time, they can pose a great danger to you, your family and your hydration.

#### How to Prepare for a Drought

- Know the four stages of a drought:
    - Drought Watch—The least dangerous, declared when a drought is developing. Public water suppliers will begin to conserve water. You should try to minimize water use.
    - Drought Warning—Public water suppliers and industries begin to update and implement their drought contingency plans in case of an emergency. You should minimize water use.
    - Drought Emergency—A state of emergency may be declared. Mandatory water restrictions may be instituted. Alternative water sources may be tapped.
    - Drought Disaster—A disaster may be declared and contingency plans put in place. Water is further rationed. You may receive emergency assistance.
  - Stay aware of the weather and long periods without precipitation.
  - Try to conserve the amount of water you use.
- #### Water Conservation
- Conserve water indoors:
    - Check for water leaks around your home.
    - Consider installing low-flow toilets, faucets and shower heads.
    - Take shorter showers.
    - Do not leave the water running unnecessarily. Turn the faucet off when you are brushing your teeth, shaving or scrubbing dishes.
    - Do not waste water by waiting for it to heat up. Capture the cold water to use later or heat water on the stove.
    - Reuse water you wash vegetables in to water plants, etc.
    - Do not waste water on small laundry loads—set the washer on the proper water level.
  - Conserve water outdoors:
    - When washing cars, turn the hose off instead of letting it run.
    - Wash the car on the lawn, so it gets watered simultaneously.
    - Do not overwater the lawn. It needs to be watered only every 5–7 days in hot weather and every 10–14 days the rest of the time.
    - Never leave sprinklers and hoses unattended—don't forget to turn them off.
    - Water lawn during designated times of the day.
    - Use the most water-efficient hoses and sprinklers.
    - Avoid ornamental water features (fountains) unless they recycle water.
  - Conserve water in the community:
    - Follow all water restrictions and water shortage rules.
    - Encourage neighbors to be water conscious.
- #### What to Do If There Is a Drought
- Stay aware of the amount of water being used

each day.

- While it is important that you are careful with the amount you consume, do not ration to the point of dehydration.
- Recycle water for household uses.
- Adhere to all guidelines and restrictions imposed by local or federal authorities.

#### Where to Find Additional Information

- American Red Cross—[www.redcross.org/static/file\\_cont162\\_lang0\\_70.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/static/file_cont162_lang0_70.pdf)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water—[www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/index.htm)

### WILDFIRE

Wildfires can start unexpectedly and spread quickly. You may not be aware of a wildfire until you are in danger, so it is important to be prepared for a wildfire, especially if you live in a dry, wooded area. Wildfires can be incredibly destructive and dangerous. They pose a threat not only to your home and community, but also to your family if you are not prepared.

#### How to Prepare for a Wildfire

- Be aware of your area's risk for wildfires.
  - Practice fire safety by—
    - Installing smoke detectors on every level of your home.
    - Never leaving a fire (including a cigarette) burning unattended.
    - Avoiding open burning.
  - Create a 30–50 foot safety zone around your home by—
    - Clearing the area of all flammable vegetation, including dry leaves and branches.
    - Removing the vines from the side of your home.
    - Regularly disposing of trash at approved sites.
    - Storing gasoline and oily rags in proper safety cans.
  - Regularly clean roof and gutters of debris.
  - Make sure you have a fire extinguisher as well as a hose that can reach all areas of the home.
  - Get an emergency supply kit.
  - Develop a family evacuation procedure and a communication plan.
- #### What to Do When There Is a Wildfire
- Listen to radio and TV for information and instructions.
  - If you spot a wildfire, call 911 immediately. Don't assume that someone has already reported it.
  - If directed to evacuate, do so immediately:
    - Turn on porch lights and all the lights inside to make your home easier to spot in heavy smoke.
    - Leave doors and windows unlocked for fire-fighters.
    - Turn off gas.
    - Fill any large containers with water, including pools, garbage cans and tubs.
    - Close all the doors in your house to prevent a draft.
    - If time permits, clear the house and the area

around it of any flammable items, including firewood and cloth curtains.

- Take your emergency kit.
- Wear protective clothing that fully covers your arms and legs. Check the labels on your clothing for the words "fire retardant." These are materials designed to resist burning and withstand heat.
- Once you are in a safe place, report to your command if you are military or government civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.

#### What to Do After a Wildfire

- Check the roof and attic for smoldering embers or fires.
- Put out any fires with the water stored in containers.
- Maintain a fire watch for several hours, periodically checking for fires or smoke throughout and around the house.

#### Where to Find Additional Information

American Red Cross at [www.redcross.org/static/file\\_cont258\\_lang0\\_123.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/static/file_cont258_lang0_123.pdf)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at [www.bt.cdc.gov/firesafety/](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/firesafety/)  
Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov) at [www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/wildfires.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/wildfires.html)  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at [www.fema.gov/hazard/wildfire/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/wildfire/index.shtm)

#### Fort Buchanan Emergencies

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Post Emergency Services       | 787-707-4911                              |
| Military Police Desk          | 787-707-3337                              |
| Fire Department/Ambulance     | 787-707-5911                              |
| Rodriguez Army Health Clinic  | 787-707-2587                              |
| Installation Operation Center | 787-707-3287, 3249 or 3395 (Mon thru Fri) |

#### Civilian Emergencies

Emergencies 911  
State Emergency Management Agency 787-724-0124  
State Fire Department 787-343-2330 / 788-2330  
State Emergency Medical Services 787-754-2550  
State Police Department 787-343-2020 / 793-1234

Monitor News and Media Stations for information:

WKAQ TV Channel 2  
WAPA TV Channel 4  
WLII TV Channel 11  
WUNO Radio 630 AM  
WAPA Radio 680 AM  
WOSO Radio 1030 AM

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen.





# "Let's Move!" helps families tackle childhood obesity

By Lt. Col. Karen E. Hawkins  
DeCA dietitian

FORT LEE, Va. – Making healthy choices for children and families is getting easier with the newly released "Let's Move!" campaign. Nearly 20 percent of children and teens in Department of Defense families are considered obese. Across the nation, the numbers are even greater as one child in three is overweight.

To help address this issue, Let's Move! provides a coordinated effort that involves families, schools, private industry and the government. You are encouraged to join First Lady Michelle Obama and others in this campaign to tackle the challenge of childhood obesity. Let's Move! is committed to solving the childhood obesity epidemic within a generation through supporting parents; providing healthier food in schools; helping children to be more physically active; and making healthy, affordable food available across the nation.

Obese children may become obese adults. Overweight children and adolescents are more likely to have risk factors associated with heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and Type 2 diabetes. Obese children and adolescents also are more likely to become obese as adults. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one study found that about 80 percent of children who were overweight at ages 10 to 15 were obese adults at age 25. Another study found that 25 percent of obese adults were overweight as children. This study also found that if a child is overweight by age 8, obesity in adulthood is likely to be more severe.

Let's Move! is helping parents

The Food and Drug Administration is developing and providing guidance for retailers and manufacturers to include new nutritionally sound and consumer-

friendly, front-of-package labeling.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, along with members of the medical community, will educate doctors and nurses across the country about obesity. Doctors will regularly monitor your child's body mass index and educate you about healthy eating habits and physical activity.

To help families make healthier food and physical activity choices, U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to revamp the food pyramid. The Web site: <http://www.MyPyramid.gov>, will make available several different tools to put the Dietary Guidelines into practice.

Let's Move! is helping schools

During the next school year, the USDA will work with schools and the private sector to double the number of schools that meet the Healthier U.S. Schools Challenge Program and add 1,000 schools each year for the next two years. The program includes standards for food quality at schools, participation in meal programs, physical activity, and nutrition education. It also provides recognition for schools that meet these standards.

To help meet the goal of increasing the number of schools that meet the challenge, major school food suppliers have agreed to meet the Institute of Medicine's recommendations within five years to decrease the amount of sugar, fat and salt in school meals; increase whole grains; and double the amount of produce they serve within 10 years.

Let's Move! with physical activity

Children need 60 minutes of active and vigorous play every day to grow up to a healthy weight category, according to the Centers for Disease Control

and other resources.

The Presidential Active Lifestyle Award is provided through the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. This challenge for children and adults is to build healthy habits by committing to regular physical activity five days a week, for six weeks. The council plans to double the number of children in the 2010 to 2011 school year who earn a Presidential Active Lifestyle Award by engaging in regular physical activity.

Let's Move! is helping provide access to healthy, affordable food

As many as 6.5 million children live in areas that do not have adequate access to a supermarket. These communities – where access to affordable, quality and nutritious foods is limited – are known as food deserts and can be found on the USDA's new interactive Food Atlas. So, Let's Move! is working to ensure that all families have access to healthy, affordable food in their communities.

Coming this spring

As part of the national campaign, Let's Move! will look for tools and strategies to help increase physical activity and help increase access to healthy, affordable food throughout the nation.

For more information about making healthy choices, visit Ask the Dietitian on <http://www.commissaries.com> and post your questions on the DeCA Dietitian Forum. Be sure to look for other useful information in the Dietitian's Voice archive. Sign up with the DeCA Dietitian on [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and get messages sent to your cell phone today. For delicious recipes, check out Kay's Kitchen. And to enjoy all your commissary has to offer, sign up for the Commissary Connection.

## Technology gives Apache block III more lift, capability, landing ability

By Kris Osborn  
Army News Services

The U.S. Army is leveraging cutting-edge technologies from its Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) to give the Block III Apache aircraft increased power, lift, maneuverability and hard-landing ability, service officials said.

The Army S & T community, a subset of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA ALT), has been developing the Rotorcraft Drive System of the 21st Century (RDS-21) Face Gear Transmission and High Performance Shock Strut (HPSS) advanced landing gear; these technologies are giving the next-generation Apache the ability to buy back performance lost when the aircraft added the extra weight that went along with enhanced mission equipment packages.

"With these technologies, pilots can fly further and carry more ordnance. They can land better under difficult conditions with no damage to the aircraft," said Mac Dinning, team leader for aircraft survivability, Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC).

The empty weight of the Apache A model is 10,267 pounds, compared to the 11,800-pound D-model Longbow Apache; the heavier Apache carries significantly improved targeting and sensing capabilities but lacks the transmission-to-power ratio and hard-landing ability of the A model. The Block III Apache is being engineered such that an advanced, high-tech aircraft at the weight of the D model can have the power, performance and landing abilities of an original A model Apache.

"When the Apache was first developed in the mid-70's it had specific operational requirements -- for hard landing and for lift capability to lift a certain payload at a

certain vertical rate of climb at forward speed. Over the years we have added a lot of capability to the aircraft in terms of mission equipment packages such as sensors, and all of that has added thousands of pounds of weight to the aircraft. So now the empty weight of the aircraft is much heavier and if we are still going to carry something close to the full weapons capability, we start losing the capability of the landing gear," said Dinning.

"In terms of technologies specific to buying back vehicle performance they had in the A model before adding all of the weight, the RDS-21 gear box and Shock Strut are the two most significant ones to add back capability the Apache had with the A model and lost with the D."

The RDS -21 improves efficiency because the transmission combines the output torque of two engines into a single power torque transmission, Dinning said.

"The RDS-21, with the split torque gear capability, is allowing us at no increase in transmission weight to pass significantly more torque through the transmission up to the router. This gives us the lift capability we need to carry the full weapons and fuel load to get missions done. It is a hardware system that is taking the output torque from two engines and is combining them into a single torque into the shaft of the router," said Dinning.

The RDS-21 technology was transferred to the Apache Program Manager in 2006. Having completed qualification testing, it is slated to enter Low-Rate-Initial-Production this year.

"We are very enthusiastic. The Block III transmission just went through its qualification testing. It is exciting for S&T to transition to a production configuration," Mr. Ming Lau, Chief of the Power Systems Division, Aviation Applied Technology Directorate (AATD).

### Shock Strut

The High Performance Shock Strut advanced landing gear -- also entering LRIP this year as part of the Apache Block III aircraft -- gives the aircraft hard landing abilities at a D model empty weight of 12,800-pounds.

The key feature of the HPSS is a variable metered orifice which allows hydraulic fluid to move from one area to another at a controlled rate, Dinning said.

"The technology used on the Shock Strut is a variable metered orifice that allows the aircraft to adjust to the weight load of the aircraft and tailor the deceleration. Typically what happens with hydraulic shocks is there is a load in one end of the shock and it is reacted to by fluid that is prevented from moving from one reservoir to another. With the metered orifice, fluid is able to move from one reservoir to the other at a controlled rate as a function of pressure. You want to control the decelerating force so the aircraft can absorb energy across the airframe," said Dinning.

"Now you have the ability to tailor the deceleration profile to safely land at significantly more weight than we have now. It slowly absorbs the energy and decelerates the aircraft from a certain synch rate to a hard stop."

The HPSS can be retrofitted onto the AH-64D model Apache, service officials said.

"The High Performance Shock Strut technology was developed because the basic structural design gross weight of the AH-64D had increased, and therefore the crash performance of the shock struts were no longer optimal," said Bryan Pilati, Aerospace Engineer (AATD). "The HPSS is a new valve design qualified as a retrofit solution to the current shock strut. This technology restores the crash performance of the second stage to its original performance requirements."





## PRimeros in the News

Stories and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Alfonso Flores  
PAO, 1st Mission Support Command

### ANOC Honor Graduate



Col. (P) Fernando Fernandez, Commander, 1st MSC congratulates Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Nieves for his accomplishment of being selected as the Honor Graduate and Deans list for the ANOC Class 101-10 at Camp Blanding. This reflects great honor upon himself, the 1st Mission Support Command, the US Army Reserves and the US Army.



The African American Black History Month activity took place at the Fort Buchanan Community Club on February 19, 2010. The 1st MSC appreciates the participation of CW3 Sonia Y. Graves, 166th Regional Support Command, for her outstanding musical performance during the activity whereby Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Rogers, IMCOM G3, Col. (P) Fernando Fernandez, 1st MSC Commander and many other distinguished guests enjoyed her performance.



### Puerto Rico Recruiting District Change of Command

Major Felipe Perez Jr. became the new Commander of the Puerto Rico Recruiting District during a Change of Command Ceremony held at Ramos Hall, Headquarters, 1st MSC on Thursday 25 February 2010. Perez proudly accepted the honor from the outgoing Commander, Lt. Col. Victor L. Morales. Morales took command of the Puerto Rico Recruiting District on 18 May 2008.

Over the past three years the Puerto Rico District Command had enlisted over 3,900 Soldiers: Active Duty and Reserves Components. During his command, Morales planned, coordinated and moved the District Headquarters to the current location and was crucial for the establishment of the Grassroots Board. The mission of this board is to promote and enhance citizens' knowledge of Army opportunities throughout Puerto Rico. Morales is departing for a tour in Iraq as a Military Transition Team Leader.

Incoming Commander, Major Felipe Perez, Jr. has served from Platoon Leader to staff member. He poses a BA degree in Business Administration and a Master Degree in Human Resources Management. He will continue the Puerto Rico Recruiting Mission by commanding the San Juan and Aguadilla companies, as well as the two Recruiting Stations in US Virgin Islands. Puerto Rico District is part of the Miami Recruiting Battalion and the 2nd Recruiting Brigade. It contains 16 Recruiting Stations and about 80 recruiters to fulfill the recruiting mission. The 1st MSC congratulations both of these fine officers.



(L to R) Major Felipe Perez Incoming Commander for the PR Recruiting District, Lt. Col. Isaac O. Johnson Commander, Miami Recruiting Battalion and Lt. Col. Victor Morales, outgoing Commander for the Puerto Rico Recruiting District.

### St. Valentine's Day Wedding



Hector Medina Melendez, 276th Ordnance Company married Jessica Rodriguez on this past Saint Valentine's Day, 14 February 2010 in a ceremony held at the Ft. Buchanan Chapel. One day, at Juana Diaz, P.R., while Ivelisse Garcia, 1st MSC Family Programs Assistant, was giving an orientation briefing to Soldiers of the 276th, she made a comment that among the services offered by the Family Programs was the service of arranging marriages. That was all Jessica Rodriguez needed to hear and immediately spoke to Hector Medina and in a record time, 3 days, they planned their wedding, got all the paperwork done along with all the medical tests and got married. The Best Man for the wedding was Jose Luis Marquez Rodriguez and the Maid of Honor was Ana Mestas. The newlyweds wish to thank Chaplain Joel Vega and Ivelisse Garcia for making their dreams a reality. Next time you go to a Family Programs orientation, be careful for what you wish for!



Lt. Col. Victor Morales receives an official Command Coin from Col. (P) Fernando Fernandez, 1st MSC Commander.



Lt. Col. Victor Morales receives a beautiful sculpture from 1st Sgt. Charles Orange on behalf of the Soldiers of the PR Recruiting District.



# PRimeros in the News

Stories and Photos By Sgt. 1st Class Alfonso Flores  
PAO, 1st Mission Support Command

## 273rd Movement Control Team Returns Home Safe

On February 9, 2010, Soldiers of the 273rd Movement Control Team arrived at San Juan's International Airport after being deployed for one year in Afghanistan. It was a very happy and emotional moment for these Soldiers because not only their families and friends were there to greet them, but also as part of the official receiving line was Mr. Sixto Luna. Mr. Luna is the father of Juan C. Luna-Lopez, a fellow Soldier member of the 273rd who passed away while on training and preparing for their mission at Afghanistan.

Mr. Luna promised the Soldiers of the 273rd that he would be at the airport to receive them in Puerto Rico when their mission was over. A man of his word, he was there as promised and greeted each Soldier with a hug as they came out of the airline terminal tunnel.

Everyone felt the happiness of the moment from all these heroes arriving home well but, there was also a feeling of sadness when you could see a father in the line hugging his son's friends yet knowing that his boy was not returning home.

They all hugged and thanked him, a true patriot, for being at the airport and representing the Luna family. This meant a lot to all of the Soldiers of the 273rd for Juan will be forever remembered and missed. Mrs. Ivelisse Garcia from the 1st MSC Family Programs gave Mr. Luna two bouquets of yellow roses for the mother and wife of Juan, Mrs. Elsa Nydia Lopez and Janet Rios respectively who could not be at the airport due to the emotion of the moment.



Mr. Luna received each Soldiers from the 273rd Movement Control Team with a hug upon arrival at the San Juan airport. The team was extremely happy and were honor by his presence.



Soldiers of the 273rd Movement Control Team hold a moment of prayer and silent in honor of their fallen comrade and for their safe return to Puerto Rico.



Family members celebrate the arrival of their loved ones after a year in Afghanistan.



Not all of the Soldiers of the 273rd Movement Control Team were able to arrive at San Juan's International Airport on February 9. Due to out processing procedures and following the Army Officer's creed of the first one in and the last one out, Capt. J. Emilio Ocasio arrived on the 17th of February to the arms of his beloved wife Helga E. Rivera and his beautiful daughter Andrea who surprised daddy by giving him a bouquet of yellow roses while dressed just like her hero.



Ivelisse Garcia, 1st Mission Support Command Family Programs Assistance presents two beautiful bouquets of yellow roses to Sixto Luna on behalf of Juan C. Luna's mother and wife in memory of his beloved son.

## First Mission Support Command Retirement Ceremony



Col. Jesus M. Galvez joined the Army on 5 May 1969 and served two tours in Vietnam as an enlisted Soldier, initially with the 1st Infantry Division, the 1st/5 Mechanized Infantry and the 116th Assault Helicopter Company. On 1977 he entered the Officer Candidate School (OCS), Fort Benning, GA receiving his commission in 1978. During his forty years of service, he has served in different leadership positions: Infantry Squad Leader, Helicopter Gunner/Crew Chief, Infantry Platoon Leader, Infantry Mortar Platoon Leader, Infantry Company XO, Infantry Company Commander, Infantry Battalion S2 and S3, Infantry Brigade S2 and S3, Battalion Commander (35th SC Bn - USAR), Assist DCS - G3 (65th RRC - USAR), DCSIM G6 - Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistic (G4) 65th RRC. His last assignment was the Multi-National Division Force Regional Officer in Charge for LOGCAP Operations for the Central and South Region of IRAQ, supporting the 10th Mountain Division Combat elements.



Sergeant Major Lopez Canchani enlisted into the U.S. Army on 28 June 1971. He Graduated as a Combat Field Medic and was assigned to the 56th General Hospital in Bad Kreuznach, Germany in 1972. He joined the U.S. Army Reserve on November 1976 and was assigned to the 831st Signal Company after reclassifying as a Wire System Installer. Sgt. Maj. Lopez Canchani completed many assignments with the 35th Signal Battalion throughout his military career. He served as the HQ, 35th Signal Battalion Operation Sergeant Major then as the Battalion Sergeant Major. On 16 January 2001, he was assigned as the Command Sergeant Major for a Task Force operation located at Flores, Guatemala. Upon completion, he returned to the 35th Signal Battalion as the Command Sergeant Major. In 2005, he deployed to Bagdad, Iraq with the 335th Theater Signal Command and was reassigned back to the 35th Signal Battalion upon his return from theater. His last assignment was as a Special Project Sergeant Major for the 1st Mission Support Command.



# First Mission Support Command Retirement Ceremony

Story and Photos By Sgt. 1st Class Alfonso Flores  
PAO, 1st MSC

A Retirement Ceremony was held at the 1st MSC Ramos Hall Building on Saturday 20 February 2010 for a unique group of Soldiers. Four colonels, three sergeant majors and one chief warrant officer put and end to their active participation in the Army Reserve among laughs and tears. Family members, friends, peers and distinguished guests gathered to congratulate the illustrious group of dedicated career professional Soldiers who after a little more than three decades of faithful service, retired proudly.

The 1st Mission Support Command would like to let everyone know that these Soldiers brought honor to the legacy and heritage of the Soldiers from Puerto Rico. They also brought great credit upon themselves, the US Army, and the 1st Mission Support Command.



Col. Francisco Pietri was a Distinguished ROTC Military Graduate Student who received his Army Reserve Commission at the University of Puerto Rico in 1979. His first assignment was as a Construction Engineer with the 448th Engineer Battalion. He continued his military career serving in various assignments as: Commander, 491st Quartermaster Co.; Civil Engineer Officer, 416th Engineer Command; and Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer, 65th Regional Readiness Command. He deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. First, as a Detachment Commander in 2003, and later as Iraq Transition Assistance Office Operations Director at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Dennis I. Cintrón joined the US Army in March 1975. He began his military career assigned to the United States Army Berlin Brigade, Germany from 1975 to 1978. In March 1980, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve and was assigned to the 807th Signal Company. Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Cintrón served many years in various assignments with the 35th Signal Battalion. His assignments included: Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Operations Sergeant Major and culminated his military career as the 210th Regional Support Group Command Sergeant Major.



Col. Jose A. Gotay received a direct commission as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Engineer Corps on 26 December 1979. Throughout his military career, he served in multiple command and staff positions. His assignments include Executive Officer, 277th Engineer Company; 871st Engineer Battalion, 420th Engineer Brigade, San Antonio, Texas; Company Commander, HHC and Company, A, 448th Engineer Battalion, 7581st USAG, Fort Buchanan, PR; Logistic Officer, 2nd Battalion, 317th and 320th Regiment, Beckley, West Virginia; Engineer Military Assistant Officer, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District; Commander, 2nd Battalion, 8th Brigade, 108th Division, Puerto Nuevo, PR; Brigade Executive Officer, 2nd Brigade, 108th Division, Gardner, North Carolina; Commander, 6th Brigade, 80th Division, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He culminated his military career as the Deputy Commander, 1st Mission Support Command, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.



Col. Marcos Rivera was commissioned a Signal Officer in 1979 at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus. In August 1981, he began his career in the Army Reserve as a Platoon Leader with the 831st Signal Company. He then served in multiple positions with the 6th Brigade, 87th Division at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. Among these positions were: Battalion Commander, Executive Officer, Signal Team Chief and Operations Officer. In addition to these assignments, he also served in the 35 Signal Battalion, 2nd Maneuver Training Command and 65th Regional Readiness Command. In March 2005, Rivera was designated Group Commander of the 210th Regional Support Group at Ramey Base, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Upon finishing his tenure, he was reassigned to the 1st Mission Support Command as a Special Project Officer involved with outreach Programs. On January 21, 2006, he was inducted to the Hall of Fame of the Army ROTC Mayaguez Campus.



Sgt. Maj. Reynaldo Rodriguez joined the Army on 17 July 1967 and proudly served two combat tours in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One). After serving on active duty, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve in 1979. His military assignments included: Wireman, Squad Leader, Supply Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Battalion Logistics NCO and Observer Controller. He also served as the First Sergeant and S2/3 Sergeant Major for the 166th Regional Support Group. He deployed to Baghdad, Iraq with the 166th Area Support Group as the Logistics Sergeant Major. Sgt. Maj. Rodriguez culminated his military career performing special projects for the 1st Mission Support Command.



Chief Warrant Officer Four David Rosario enlisted in the U.S Army as a Private on 3 February 1969. He completed Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and the Food Service Training Course at Fort Lee, Virginia. He then joined the United States Army Reserve in March 1975. His previous assignments include: Food Service Advisor for the 166th Area Support Group in Camp Victory Iraq; Food Service Advisor, 65th Regional Readiness Command; Property Book Officer, 699th Engineer Co.; Food Service Officer, Task Force 89 Honduras and Food Service Advisor for the 7581st United States Army Garrison. His last assignment was as the 210th Regional Support Group Food Service Advisor.

